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**TOMMY RICH: "I'LL BLEED  
TO KEEP MY BELT"**

March 1980

47727 \$1.25

# **NEW Wrestling**

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BATTLE FOR  
WRESTLING'S  
SURVIVAL**

**HOW HIS OWN MANAGER  
BETRAYED BOBBY DUNCUM**



**TERRY FUNK  
LEAVES FLORIDA.  
CAN THE  
DAMAGE  
BE UNDONE?**





# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter  
King

Editor-in-Chief

Lou Albano must really be angry at me. I can tell. He sent me a telegram. When he's his usual normally angry at me, he sends letters.

Albano is upset because in our Spring issue of SPORTS REVIEW ANNUAL we printed that the fans voted Arnold Skoaland "Manager of the Year." Albano believes he deserved that honor. Some would call this extreme self-confidence. Others more analytical would call it insanity.

Let's look at what Albano did in 1979. True, he guided the Valiants back to the WWF throne. And yes, he discovered probably the most vicious tag team in years, the Samoans. But there are some very large blotches discoloring the Albano record.

His quarrel with the Valiants on national television led to a physical confrontation between Albano and Jimmy Valiant. It also led to the ending of the lucrative contract between Albano and the Valiants. Those who know claim it was Albano's incredible ego which led to the breakup. A great manager does not give up on the tag team champions of the world.

Then there was the sordid business transaction with Grand Wizard (see page 34 of this issue). A great manager does not betray his top prospect for any amount of money.

And finally, there was Albano's dumb handling of Pat Patterson after acquiring his contract. Albano screamed and boasted Patterson would do anything he was told. Of course, Albano the nut didn't bother to explain this to Pat Patterson, who soon felt hurt and slighted. It wasn't long after that Patterson and Albano became enemies. So Lou Albano paid Grand Wizard \$100,000 for a man who now wants to kill him!

But Lou Albano sends me a telegram saying he should be Manager of the Year. No way. Maniac of the year is the only award he deserves.



# ON THE ROAD

with  
GARY MORGENSTEIN

MADISON  
SQUARE GARDEN  
NEW YORK CITY

MAPLE LEAF GARDEN  
TORONTO

MINNEAPOLIS  
AUDITORIUM  
MINNEAPOLIS

THE SCOPE  
NORFOLK

THE SUPERDOME  
NEW ORLEANS

MID-SOUTH  
COLISEUM  
MEMPHIS

THE SPECTRUM  
PHILADELPHIA

THE OLYMPIA  
LOS ANGELES

THE KIEL  
ST. LOUIS

COBO HALL  
DETROIT

THE SUMMIT  
HOUSTON

THE OMNI  
ATLANTA

MIAMI BEACH  
AUDITORIUM  
MIAMI

(Last month, Associate Editor Gary Morgenstein met with Rick Steamboat to learn why the young wrestler instituted a blackout over his career. Morgenstein suspected Steamboat is being blackmailed. As Morgy left the Carolina diner, he was nearly run over by a mysterious man in a Chevy. In the conclusion of Morgy's report, he reveals who the blackmailer is!)

**I** PICKED THE gravel out of my eardrum and wondered how anyone knew about my meeting with Rick Steamboat. Surely no rulebreaker would know. First off, I make darn sure no one follows me. Secondly, Steamboat isn't about to tell Buddy Rogers his travel plans.

So that eliminates a number of persons from consideration as rulebreakers. But other factors influenced me to ignore some wrestlers.

If Jimmy Snuka were the one who tried to run me over, he'd have to be under Rogers' fiendish hypnotic spell. Maybe Snuka would blackmail under Rogers command, but he couldn't drive a car under that influence.

Buddy Rogers? Blackmail is too subtle for him. He'd batter a man from behind in some dark alley, but blackmail is too sophisticated for Rogers.

Patera? Seems he was in New York at the time someone tried to run me over. Not that the blackmailer and the would-be murderer were the same, but it was likely. Cross off Patera.

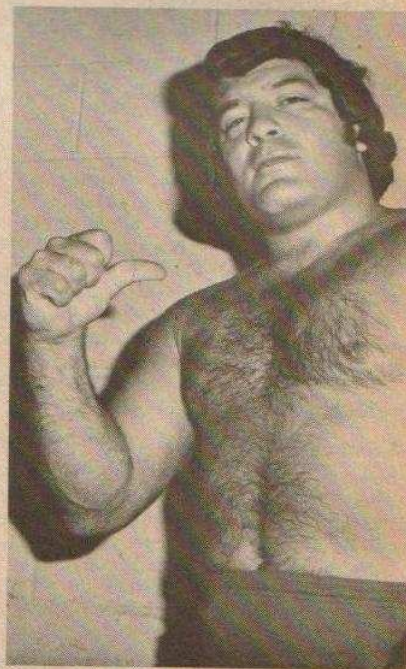
What about Greg Valentine? He's often expressed vicious envy of Steamboat. But this plot requires an element of fiendish finesse, something sorely lacking in Valentine. Nope, not him.

What about Flair? A good candidate. Surely his partnership with Steamboat gave him access to some of Rick's deeper secrets. Maybe Steamboat confided in Flair one night over a couple of beers. I believe Flair would use such information about

Steamboat, but not in this way, not to shut him up. Call Flair many things, but not coward. If anything, he'd belittle a foe to set up a fiery match, not prevent one.

Who does that leave? Jay Youngblood? No. Jay is too decent and too loyal to Rick.

That narrows this list down to one name. This man has ample reason to hurt Rick Steamboat. He has never forgiven Steamboat for alleged treachery during their days as tag team partners. He would like nothing better than to ruin Steamboat. Unlike others who may have a trace of decency left, this man's hate has so poisoned, so warped his soul that ideals like



Last month, Associate Editor Gary Morgenstein was almost run over while investigating Rick Steamboat's sudden withdrawn and depressed attitude. Is Paul Jones pointing the accusing finger? right and wrong vanish when applied to Steamboat.

That man has dark hair. The more I thought about him, the more I realized he was the one driving the car which nearly ran me over.

Paul Jones.

I leaped into my car and confronted him at his hotel.

"Steamboat? Hah, what are you

(Continued on page 52)



# Body Slams & Pinfalls

By Dan Shocket

**T**HE IDIOTS ARE having a field day. It's wonderful to see how the stupid can babble without bothering themselves to think.

The moment you heard Harley Race lost his NWA title to Baba the Giant, you knew the fools would say Harley is through. Even though he won the belt back days later, the fools kept screeching their baseless opinions.



Does Harley Race's second loss of the NWA title within a year indicate that he is faltering? Dan Shocket believes that regaining the belt twice proves Harley's greatness.

"It's a matter of time now," they declare, "before Race loses his belt once and for all. Losing the title means he's through. First, he lost it to Dusty Rhodes. Maybe he won it back a few days later, but then he lost it again to

Baba. He won it back again, but that doesn't matter. He's doomed."

Think about it for a moment. These fools are condemning a man for losing a battle but winning the war. He is still champion. Looking over the competition, all of whom Race has defeated more than once, it appears as if he will remain champ for years to come.

What is Harley's secret? Brains. He may be the smartest wrestler to ever become champion. When other guys lose, they fall apart. Race waits for his rematch, learns from his mistakes, and regains his title. No other champion has ever done that.

Consider. Bruno Sammartino, a favorite of the ignorant, lost his title to Ivan Koloff. It took him three years to regain the belt. Jack Brisco lost and has yet to regain it. The same is true of Pedro Morales. Neither has Funk ever regained his title. Only Race is the one who can come back from defeat and emerge triumphant.

What accounts for Harley's success? The man has ice water in his veins. He knows no fear, displays no real anger, doesn't make stupid

mistakes. When the money is on the line, Race is victorious.

Perhaps that's why he's so underrated. He isn't the flashy kind of athlete adored by simpletons. To appreciate Race's skill takes discernment, intelligence, and patience. To fully appreciate his genius, one must study him over a series of matches. There are no spectacular moves to delight the rabble. It's simply consummate professionalism, match after match.

So, because so few people can understand him, Harley has to listen to the drivel. A lesser man would let it worry him. A lesser man wouldn't be Harley Race.

"As soon as someone calls himself an expert," Harley says, "the guy is sure to be wrong 90 percent of the time. How many 'experts' said I'd never regain my title. After I lost the belt the first time, I barely made the top 10 challengers' list. Do you know how many times I read articles saying I was through? I read them every so often for laughs. Still, before I won the title the second time, my career looked to be down the tubes. All because the experts said I

*(Continued on page 54)*



# 'TOP SECRET'

## Behind the Dressing Room Door

by Stu  
Saks



**T**IM WOODS GENTLY placed his mask on a life-size mannequin and stared silently. Slowly turning toward me, he pounded a fist into his open hand and gritted his teeth. "There it shall remain," he said.

When Tim Woods wears his mask, he is Mr. Wrestling. The metamorphosis does not occur in a telephone booth or storeroom; Woods is not trying to maintain a secret identity. The mask is more of a symbol to him and his fans. A symbol of purity in a sport that spits in the face of honest, clean men. It's a symbol of a wrestling excellence known world-wide.

But now it rests idle on a mannequin. And there it symbolizes the frustration of its owner. It may stay there forever.

Woods is a depressed man. He is having doubts about professional wrestling—not about the sport itself, but rather some of the elements that have infiltrated its existence over the past few years.

"That mask means a great deal to me," Woods said. "But I can't wear it anymore. I know some people find this silly, but it isn't. When I wear the mask, I feel there is some hope for this sport. You know, I feel somewhat like a policeman does about his badge. The badge itself doesn't mean a thing. It's a piece of steel. But there's a lot behind that steel. My mask is only a piece of cloth, but if these rulebreakers see me wearing it, they know that there is at least one man who will not let them ruin this great sport."

It is not difficult to see why Tim feels the way he does. He wrestles in the Mid-Atlantic

*(Continued on page 56)*



# THE INSIDER

By STEVEN FARHOOD



The Funk Brothers—Terry and Dory—threatened never to wrestle in the NWA again if certain demands were not agreed to. The NWA promoters united to turn the Funks down. Terry has since left for Japan. Dory is seeking a shot at Kevin Von Erich's Missouri heavyweight title.

## SCOOP OF THE MONTH

The Funk brothers, Terry and Dory Jr., have failed in an effort to gain complete control of the

National Wrestling Alliance!

Using desperate means, the shrewd brothers plotted to take over the NWA by utilizing strong-armed tactics against the Alliance's unsuspecting

promoters.

"The Funks have plenty of clout down here," said one promoter who asked to remain unidentified. "They also have a lot of money. And they tried to use that clout and that money in a very evil way. Thank God for wrestling that they have stopped. Thank God for the world!"

But what was it that the dastardly duo did? Who stopped them, and how?

"From what I have gathered," said Jack Brisco, "Terry and Dory started making a whole bunch of very forceful phone calls from their power base in Florida. They called all the major NWA promoters and threatened that if their demands weren't met, they would never appear on another NWA card. Luckily, most of the promoters saw through their evil plot. Damn, if they had gotten their way, every wrestler in the whole territory—from scientific guys like me and Jerry (Jack's brother), to rulebreakers like Masked Superstar and Harley Race—would have been at their mercy. Can you imagine that? This whole territory would be in a chaotic state, and two nuts like the Funks would've been looking down from the top and laughing."

One Florida promoter put the dangerous incident in proper perspective.

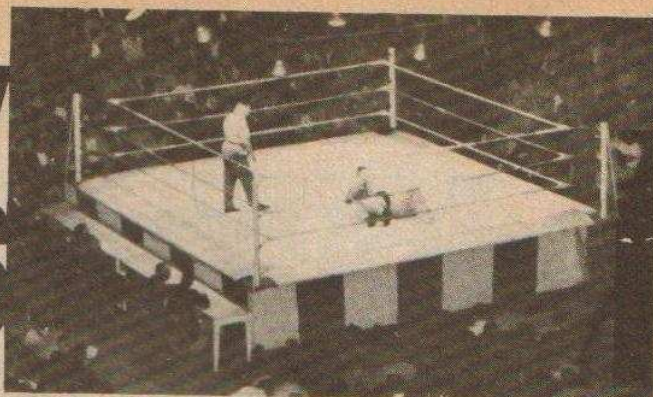
*(Continued on page 46)*



SEND LETTERS TO:

**SINCERELY  
YOURS**

Box 48  
Rockville Centre, NY 11571



Bob Backlund battles Harley Race in 1976 before either was champion. Reader Dwight Moore thinks it is time for the three wrestling federations to get together and hold a round-robin tournament to decide on one world champion.

### ONE CHAMPION FOR ALL

I was just thinking about how the three world champions try to win or claim each other's titles. I would like to suggest a vote taken on having a world champion from among AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel, WWF champion Bob Backlund, and NWA champion Harley

Race. This champion would fight the ones below him and their top two contenders. This would be like a round-robin, but when all was over, there'd be one champion.

He could wrestle all over the world. Why not ask the three leagues to join together for one champion.

DWIGHT MOORE  
Smithdale, MS



Ken Patera will soon be WWF champion, writes Jim Lowe of Stony Brook, New York. Lowe admires Patera for not allowing himself to be broiled in February 1980's Hotseat.

### PATERA WILL BE CHAMP

Wasn't it wonderful the way Ken Patera told Steve Farhood and the whole dumb world where to put it? He's absolutely correct when he told the "Hotseat" (February/1980) interviewer that no one would dare question Sammartino's integrity. There's a double standard which makes me ill. Patera is doubted on everything he says, while those three-faced four-flushing good guys can get away with anything.

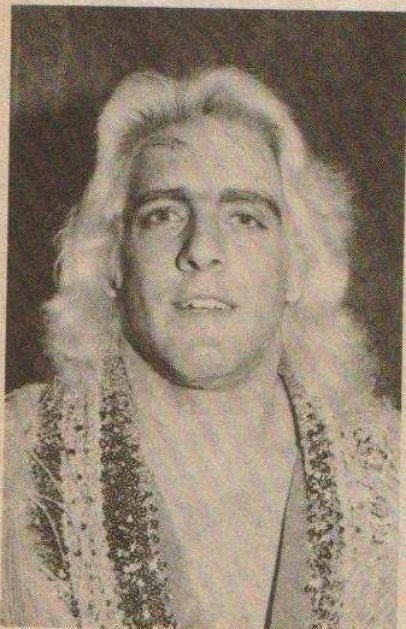
Well, Ken, take care and know that fans expect you to be champion.

JIM LOWE  
Stony Brook, NY  
(Continued on page 58)



# NAMES MAKI

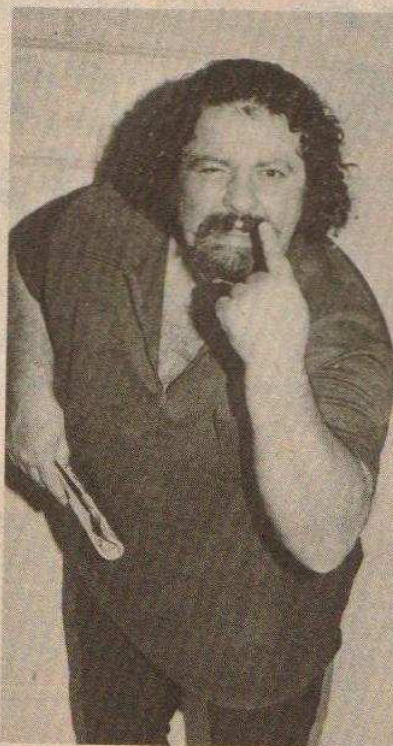
Just as this issue was going to press, we received word that **BUDDY ROGERS** has officially left the Mid-Atlantic region after sustaining a serious ear injury in his melee with **RIC FLAIR**. This leaves Rogers' "Death Squad," consisting of U.S. champion **JIMMY SNUKA** and big **JOHN STUDD** without a manager. Just what effect this will have on Snuka and Studd remains to be seen. "I'm proud that I was able to run Rogers out of this area," Flair says. "Studd and



**RIC FLAIR**

Snuka are next."

As reported in a recent edition, **THE GRAND WIZARD** sold the contract of **PAT PATTERSON** to **CAPTAIN LOU ALBANO**. Patterson remained silent on the matter until he got a chance to speak his mind on television. "Lou Albano is a fat pig and I hate him," Patterson barked. "I was never asked how I felt about being traded by the Wizard. I hate it! My



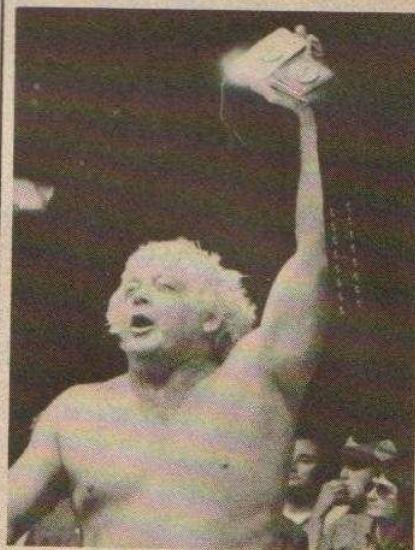
**CAPTAIN LOU ALBANO**

lawyers will take them to court. They can't trade me just like that."

"Well, more hatred for Albano surfaced as Patterson teamed with Albano's duo, **THE SAMOANS**, for a six-man tag match. During that match Pat was in trouble and Albano refused to let either Samoan tag him. So Pat got out of trouble by himself and promptly smashed Lou Albano in the face! The Samoans immediately came to Albano's aid, holding back Patterson's arms while the Captain smashed a chair over his head. It's all out war now as Patterson wants to destroy Albano and his team!

**RAY STEVENS** is the new Mid-Atlantic champion by virtue of a tough win over **JIM BRUNZELL**. . . **BRYAN ST. JOHN** and **STANLEY LANE** have recaptured the Florida tag team belts. . . **BOBO**

**BRAZIL** is at war with **BAD LEROY BROWN** in Florida. . . **DICK SLATER** is depressed after dropping a controversial title match to NWA king **HARLEY RACE**. . . **GREG VALENTINE** is back from Japan where he won 25 consecutive bouts. . . **TONY ATLAS** is negotiating for a long



**RAY STEVENS**

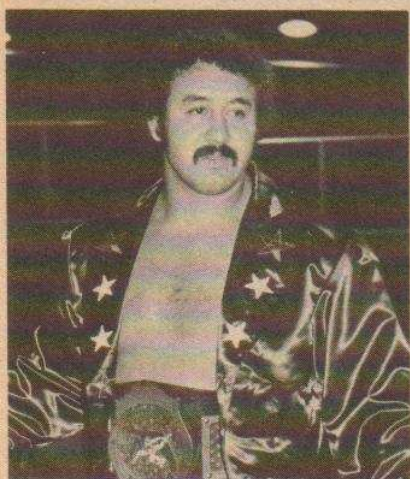


**BOBO BRAZIL**



# IN' NEWS

Bill Apter  
reporting...



## MANNY FERNANDEZ

term contract in the WWF.

Florida state champion MANNY FERNANDEZ admits that challenger BUGSY McGRAW is "Ten times more dangerous" now that SIR OLIVER HUMPERDINK is managing him ... MIL MASCARAS is headed to Texas ... HULK HOGAN looked impressive in his Madison Square Garden debut. FRED BLASSIE has got a real championship prospect in this young and talented man.

MR. WRESTLING II says he is proud that TOMMY RICH wears the Georgia state championship. Would he ever square off against Tommy for the belt? "That's a tough question," the masked man pondered. "I guess I would if the promoters thought I was worthy of a title shot. I'll tell you one thing, though. It would be one heck of a great scientific match." Who does he pick as a winner? "I won't be like some of these guys and say I will win for sure," II says. "Tommy is very talented. Anything can happen in that ring, so it could go either way."

KILLER BROOKS has broken

ties with manager GARY HART in Texas and is now calling J.J. DILLON his new manager ... Missouri state champion KEVIN VON ERICH says that DORY FUNK JR. is begging for a title shot and he will grant it. "I duck no one," Kevin says. He also adds that Dory will have to guarantee him that TERRY FUNK will not be at ringside to lend Dory a helping hand. "I'll have brothers Kerry and David nearby just in case Terry shows up," Kevin assures everyone.

Cocky JERRY LAWLER says that he has beaten AWA champion NICK BOCKWINKEL several times. "Hundreds of people witnessed the match," Lawler says. He has very conveniently forgotten the date the match took place and where the bout was held. Bockwinkel laughs it off saying,



## JERRY LAWLER

"Liars don't make great champions. I'd like to see the day Lawler can beat me." A showdown seems imminent.

DUSTY RHODES almost won



## HARLEY RACE

the NWA title from HARLEY RACE at New York's Madison Square Garden. "There'll be a rematch at the Garden one of these days," Dusty says, "and 22,000 people will see me win Race's belt for the second time in my career."

Georgia tag team champions AUSTIN IDOL and MASKED SUPERSTAR, have issued open challenges to the following out of area tag teams: RICK STEAMBOAT and JAY YOUNGBLOOD, IVAN PUTSKI and TITO SANTANA, and VERNE GAGNE and MAD DOG VACHON. "We want to win the other big recognized titles from those losers we named," Idol boasted. "And we won't stop there," Masked Superstar adds. "We'll take on the TWIN DEVILS for the California belts. We'll take on BRYAN ST. JOHN and STANLEY LANE for their Florida belts. We can beat anyone. We are the greatest tag team in the world today." It's time to air out the room gang.

That's all for now. See you next time! □



# ***Ric Flair vs. Buddy Rogers***

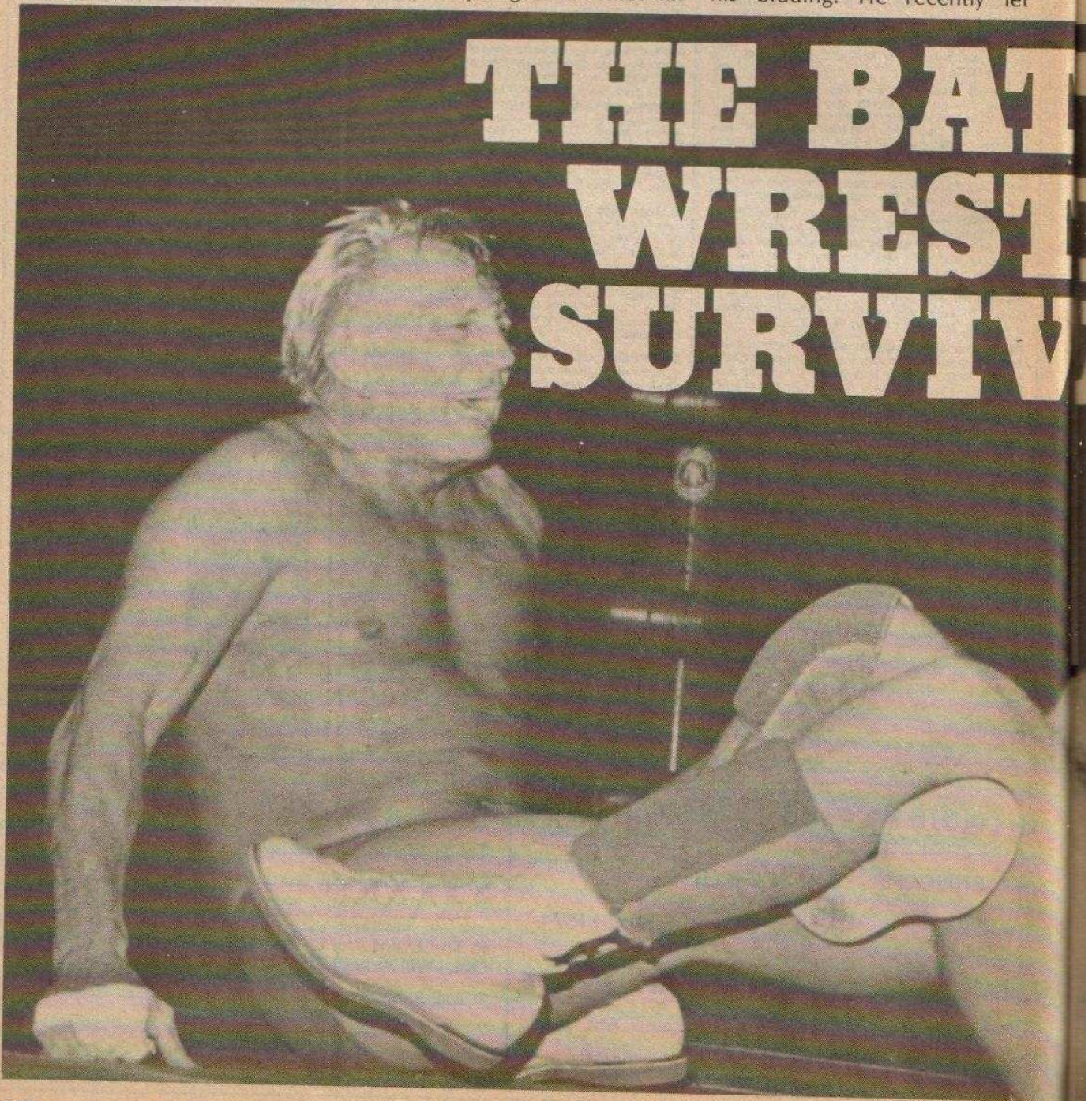
**W**HEN THE ANNOUNCEMENT came, stunned observers murmured, "It must be Judgement Day."

Ric Flair had declared war on Buddy Rogers. Flair was once considered the most un-

scrupulous young grappler around. If anyone would've appreciated the cruel cunning of Buddy Rogers, one would assume that person would be Flair. Yet, even Ric Flair is shocked by Rogers' latest tactics.

What could shock Ric Flair? Buddy Rogers keeps the wrestlers he manages under control by using hypnosis. In fact, Rogers is proud of the fact he can make these athletes do his bidding. He recently let

## **THE BAT WREST SURVIV**





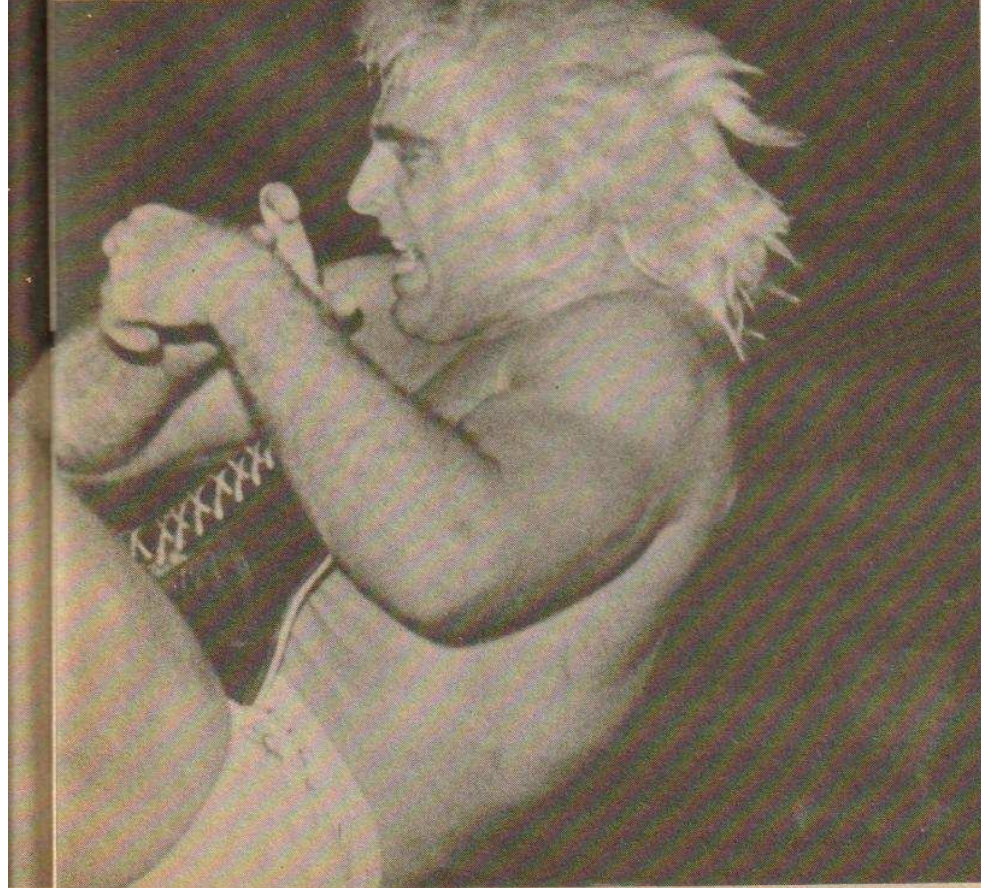
# Buddy Rogers:

people watch as he put Jimmy Snuka and John Studd under his spell.

"Hypnosis," Rogers claims, "is the greatest invention there is. I can make wrestlers meaner, tougher, and stronger. All I'm

doing is taking away their negative aspects—fear, compassion, modesty—and letting their true personalities emerge. Jimmy Snuka is the perfect example. He was a loser before I got to him. Instead of winning,

## TITLE FOR FLAIR'S VAL



he was beloved by the fans. Under hypnosis, I made him realize the fans mean nothing. What's really important is winning.

"Now, John Studd was born mean. I made him meaner. All through the wonders of hypnosis."

Flair was stunned when he heard about this strange practice.

"It's mind control!" Ric contends. "I don't care what he calls it. You can't tell me Snuka isn't a prisoner of Rogers. It's more than just simple hypnosis. It's despicable. We can't let this happen in wrestling. I must do anything I can to stop it.

"I'm the first one to admit I'm no angel. I've never seen any percentage in being too good. But what I do affects only me and the guy I'm wrestling. No one is forcing him into the ring. He knows what he's getting into.

"Rogers is much worse. He crosses the line. Controlling other guys, making them do things they maybe wouldn't want to do, that's dangerous. Nobody should have to suffer like that. What if his wrestlers got permanently injured in the

*(Continued on page 47)*

Ric Flair (right) ties Buddy Rogers up in a figure-four leglock, a hold Rogers made famous earlier in his career. Ric used to idolize Rogers. But when Ric discovered that his boyhood idol was controlling his wrestlers with hypnosis, he became determined to end Buddy's career.

**Once Ric Flair admired Buddy Rogers. Out of respect, he patterned his style after Rogers. He named himself after Rogers. Now he feels obligated to rid the sport of Rogers—before the sport no longer exists**



# HOTSEAT

## TOMMY RICH:

### "I'LL BLEED TO KEEP MY BELT"

**H**E IS ONE of wrestling's brightest young stars. Surmounting venomous jealousy and vicious assaults from Georgia wrestlers has become second-nature to him. His good looks have won him female fans and his tough talents respect from his peers. Despite unprecedented provocations, he remains true to the highest principles of wrestling decency. Seemingly nothing can dissuade him from his path. Recently, he captured the Georgia heavyweight championship, establishing himself as the premier scientific wrestler in the state. He is Tommy Rich.

#### INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY PETER KING

- Q:** Tommy, thanks for coming by.
- A:** Oh, my pleasure, Peter. This is something I've looked forward to for a long time.
- Q:** Being interviewed on the Hotseat?
- A:** Well, being the sort of wres-

tlar you'd want to interview. I know bad guys get as much press as good guys, but I wanted to be noticed on my talents with my hands, not my mouth.

**Q:** Do you feel you were a little

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**“**I had to prove, over and over again, that I was hard enough to withstand physical punishment inside the ring and mental punishment, in the form of peer pressure, outside.  
**”**

---

too quiet earlier in your career?

**A:** Uh, yeah, maybe I was. Maybe I was a little awed by everything and so I let myself be taken advantage of.

**Q:** In what way?

**A:** Well, I got some awfully bloody matches, maniacs others wouldn't wrestle. Like

a match with Abdullah the Butcher in which I thought I wouldn't make it. I felt I was thrown to the wolves.

**Q:** By whom?

**A:** Other scientific wrestlers. Not all of them.

**Q:** Would you care to mention names?

**A:** I'd rather not.

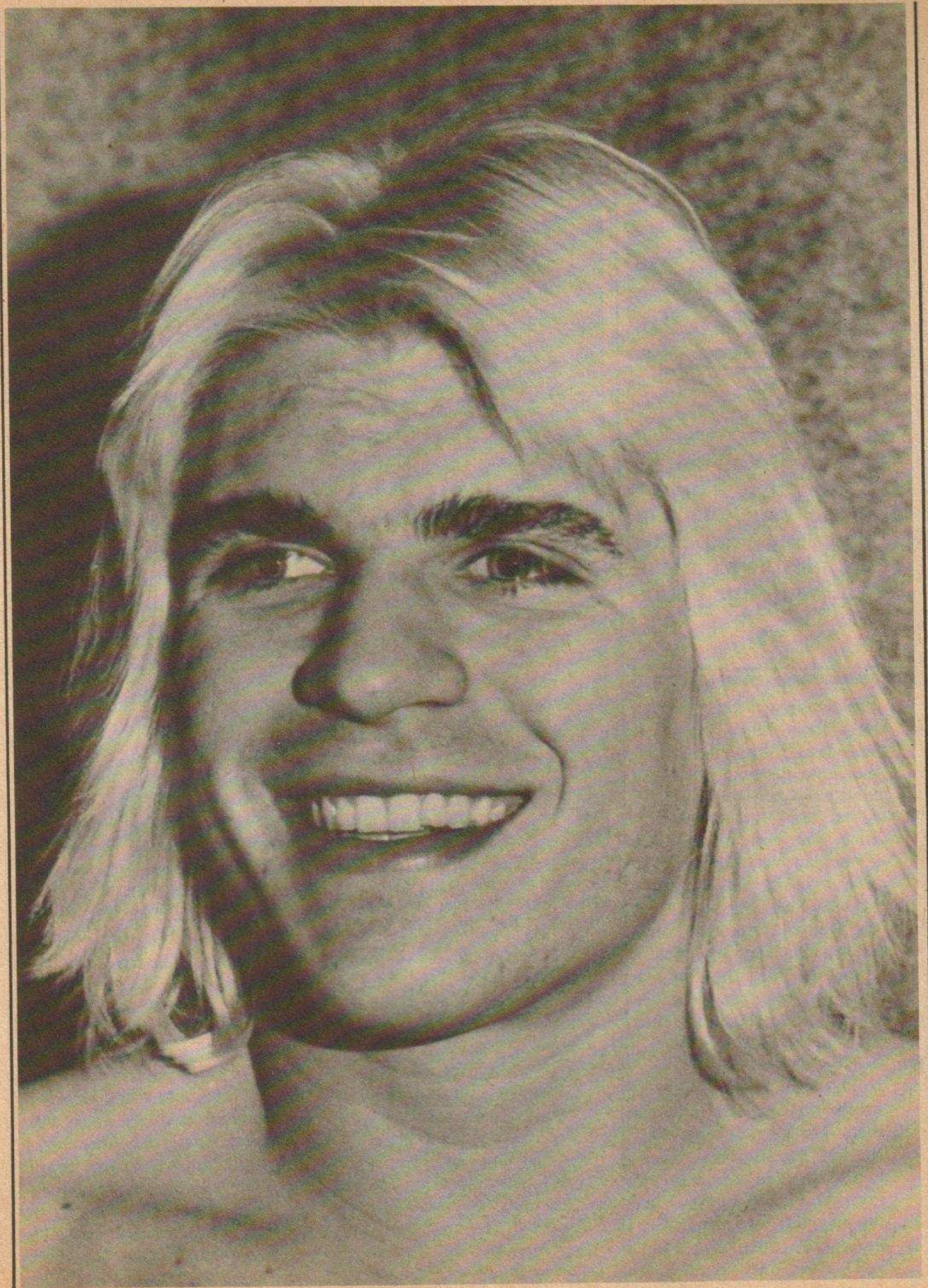
**Q:** Why do you think they did that?

**A:** Partly jealousy. I was the new kid and the new kid always gets tough treatment to see if he's good enough. I had to prove, over and over again, that I was hard enough to withstand physical punishment inside the ring and mental punishment, in the form of peer pressure, outside. At the time, it was miserable. Now I'm glad I did it.

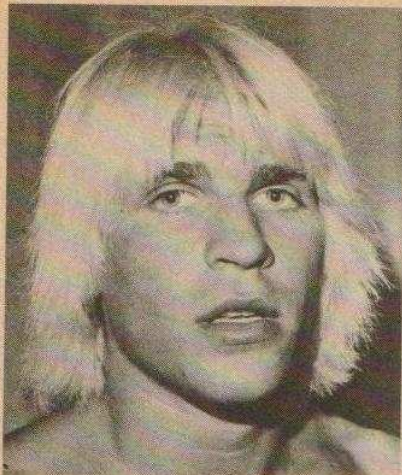
**Q:** Who was instrumental in helping you?

**A:** Oh, I think Tim Woods and Mr. Wrestling II were great. They showed me some tricks, always listened to my









“

**You have to stay angry in wrestling. You can't let up or you're a bum, a prelim wrestler. This is an incredibly competitive sport and the slightest relaxation brings doom.**

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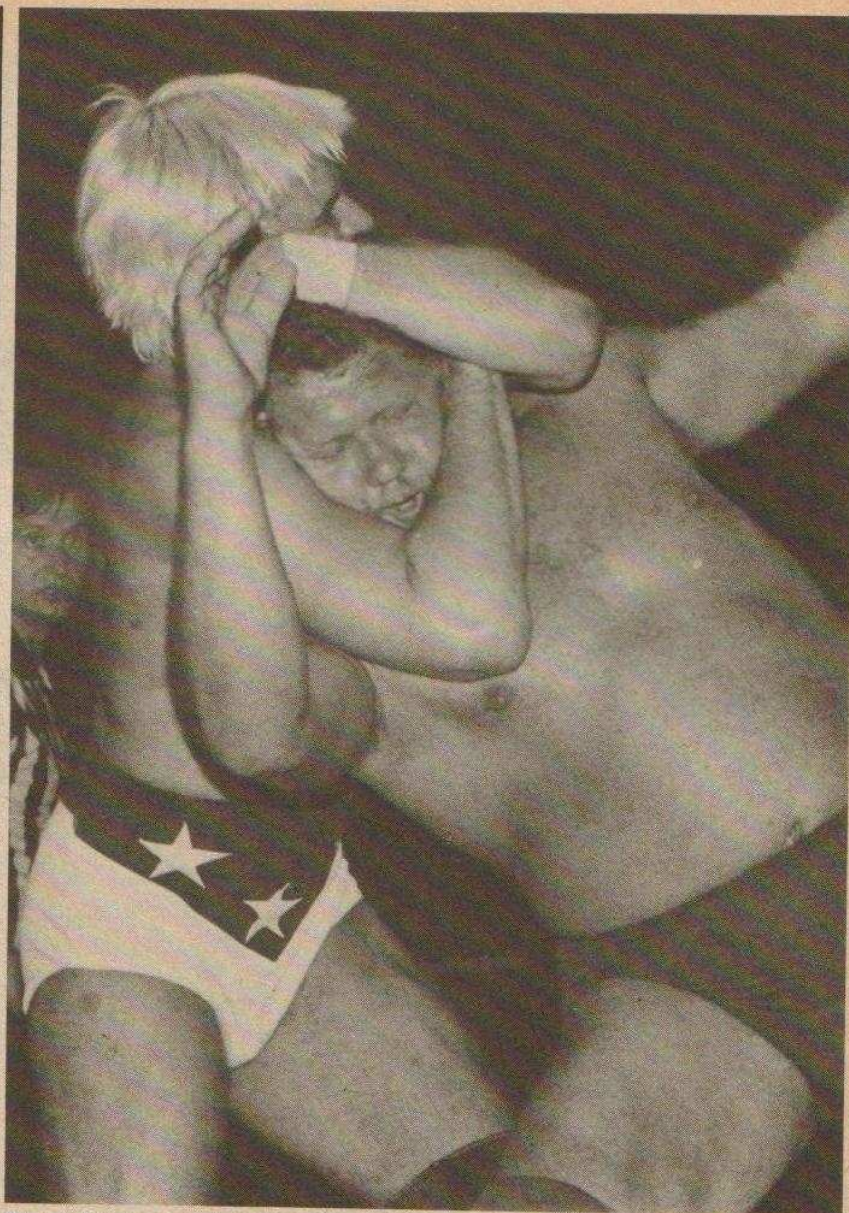
problems and never refused to help. Fans should know that Woods and II are true gentleman and deserving of every kind word they receive.

**Q:** Some people said Tommy Rich was too much of a gentleman ever to win the title.

**A:** Yeah, I heard that. They said I wasn't mean enough. You don't have to be mean, only determined. And I'm determined to hold the Georgia title for the next decade. They'll have to tear the title off me.

**Q:** What changed you?

**A:** I don't know if I'm changed, maybe more mature. I know there are some people like Bobby Heenan and Killer Karl Kox who would break my skull open if I gave them the slightest opportunity. I don't ever trust them. But you have to distinguish



Tommy Rich came within second of winning the NWA championship belt from Harley Race. Just as Harley was about to fall victim to Tommy's sleeper hold, the curfew bell ended the match (above). Rich was not to be denied, however, when he wrestled Killer Karl Kox for the Georgia heavyweight title.

between friend and foe. Some men I trust, like II and Tim. Others, like the Lanzas and Koxes, I have to hate.

**Q:** Have to hate?

**A:** You have to stay angry in wrestling. You can't let up or you're a bum, a prelim wrestler. This is an incredibly competitive sport and the slightest relaxation brings doom. I'm angry all the time because I want to stay champion.

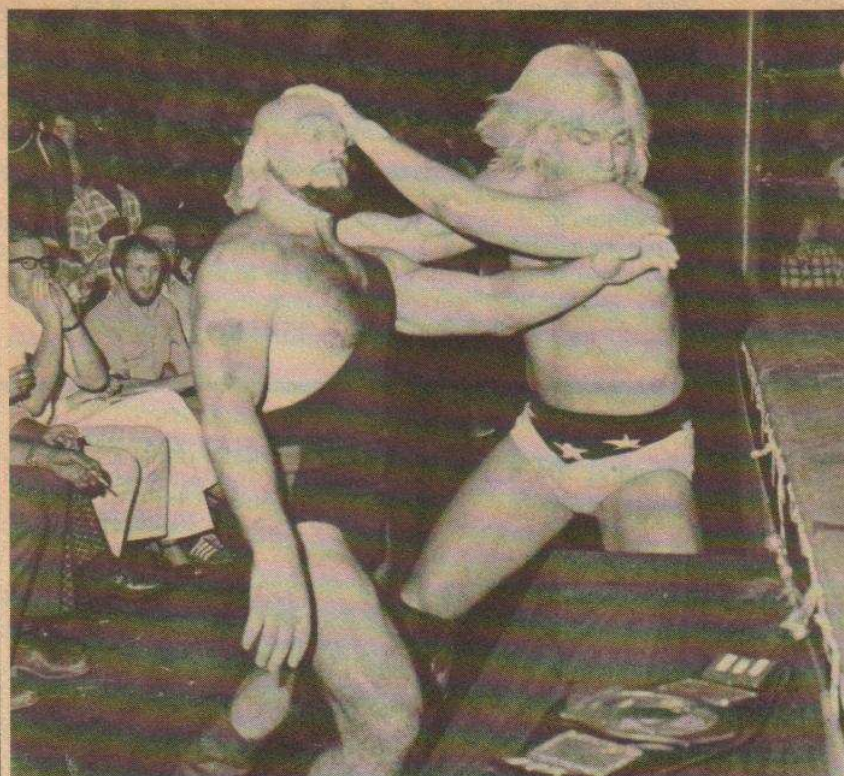
**Q:** What happened in that cage

match you had recently with Heenan?

**A:** Well, Terry Funk was supposed to wrestle me but he backed out. He said he had an injury. I say Terry Funk has no guts. Anyway, Heenan thought he'd get away with these lousy tricks, thought I didn't know how to handle them. Heenan's busted up face showed otherwise.

**Q:** Heenan rarely underestimates opponents. Why do you think he did that with you?





**A:** Not sure. Maybe he didn't realize how much I've grown in the past few months. Maybe Heenan, and others, mistake a fan favorite like me with someone who is afraid to take chances. Look, no one wants their face sliced up, even if they're gruesome like Heenan. But I'll put my whole body on the line to defend my title. I'll bleed to keep my belt.

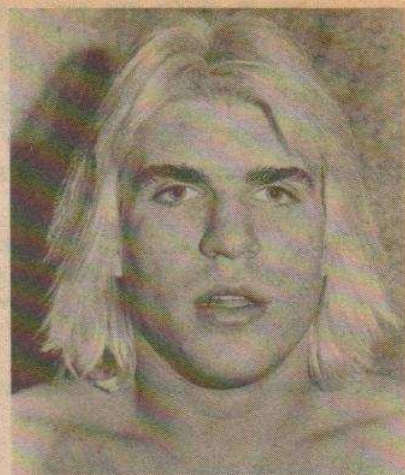
**Q:** How important are your fans to you?

**A:** Very, *very* important. Even someone as determined as I am wavers from time to time. You're in the ring and some goon is pounding away. You start to wonder if this is the end. Then fans start shouting out encouragement. You know, sometimes it's like Popeye and spinach. Teetering on the edge and he pops the can out of his pocket. Fans are my spinach, my source of strength.

**Q:** What was the feeling the night you won the Georgia title?

**A:** Oh, fantastic, like nothing I ever felt before. I kinda

Rich is about to slam Ivan Koloff's head into the Georgia heavyweight belt, which was placed at ringside for the winner (above). Back in June, *INSIDE WRESTLING* presented Tommy Rich with its annual "Future Champion" trophy. Sure enough, the prediction materialized. Tommy plans on holding that title until the NWA belt is placed around his waist.



“  
**“[Fans] are very, very important . . . sometimes it's like Popeye and spinach. Teetering on the edge and he pops the can out of his pocket. Fans are my spinach, my source of strength.**  
 ”

stumbled around in a happy daze for several days. All I could think about was winning the title. Then I met Lanza and was brought back down to Earth. I realized winning the title wasn't a fraction as difficult as defending it night after night.

**Q:** Do you find being champion wearying?

**A:** Oh, no, hey, I don't want it to sound like a complaint. I love the challenge of being a champion. As hard as it may be, as painful as it sometimes is, I wouldn't want to be anything but champion.

**Q:** Just Georgia champion?

**A:** Well, I kinda like what the NWA belt looks like.

**Q:** Tommy, thanks for the interview.

**A:** Anytime, Peter. Maybe next time you'll introduce me as NWA champion. □



# NEWS FROM THE

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

Send your reports to: Correspondent Editor, Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571.

## NEW YORK, N.Y. by Theresa Barriteau



**BOB BACKLUND  
vs.  
BOBBY DUNCUM**



At Madison Square Garden, young WWF champion Bob Backlund faced one of his toughest threats in Big Bob Duncum. Both Duncum and Albano had mercilessly assaulted Arnold Skoaland. Out to avenge that senseless assault on his manager, Backlund came out stomping and kicking. The match deteriorated into a bloodbath which the referee had to stop because of excessive bleeding by both wrestlers.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Ivan Putski and Tito Santana retained their WWF titles against Jerry and John Valiant . . . Pat Patterson successfully defended his Inter-Continental championship against the fierce challenge of Ted DiBiase .

## RALEIGH, N.C. by Ricky Short



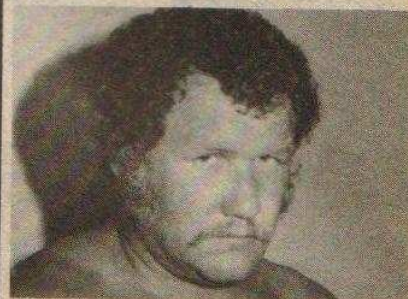
**TIM WOODS  
vs.  
JIMMY SNUKA**



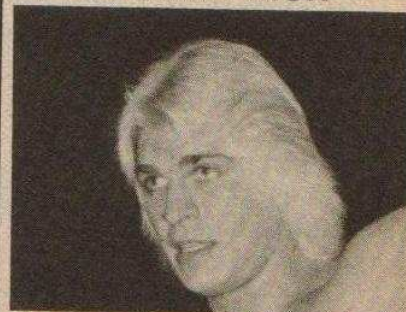
Tim "Mr. Wrestling" Woods squared off against fiendish Jimmy Snuka in a thrilling bout. Throughout the match, Woods wrestled cleanly and Snuka wrestled dirty. Using his dread guillotine maneuver, Snuka won a dubious victory, injuring Woods' neck in the process.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Jim Brunzell and Rick Steamboat handled Swede Hanson and Charlie Fulton . . . Rufus R. Jones overwhelmed Frank Monte . . . Nick Bockwinkel belted Abe Jacobs.

## WARNER ROBINS, GA. by Cathy Davidson



**HARLEY RACE  
vs.  
TOMMY RICH**

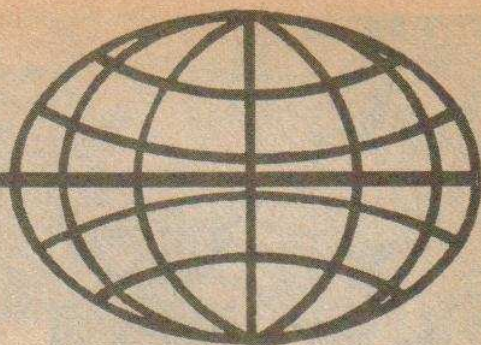


For the first time in its history, Warner Robins was the scene of a title match. And AWA champion Harley Race didn't disappoint anyone turning up for this historic meeting against young Tommy Rich. Perhaps Race thought he could intimidate Rich with his dirty maneuvers. All wrong. Rich greeted each Race move with a brilliant scientific maneuver. However, the match took its toll and both were bleeding heavily. In a scuffle, the referee was knocked over and a double disqualification was declared.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Tony Atlas and Ray Candy were sensational in their victory over Killer Kox, Bobby Heenan and Masked Superstar . . .

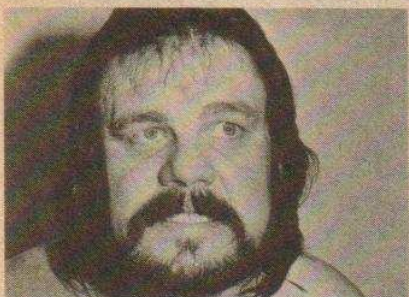


# WRESTLING CAPITALS

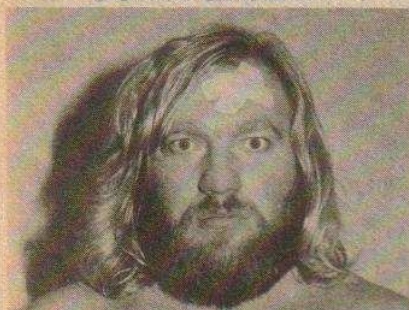


## ROANOKE, VA.

by Pam Arthur



**BLACKJACK MULLIGAN**  
vs.  
**JOHN STUDD**

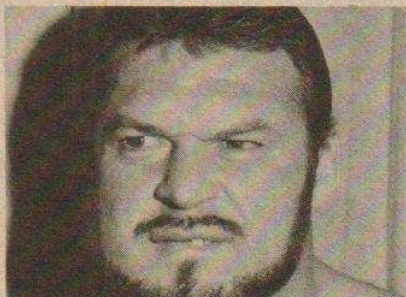


A battle of the giants delighted a capacity crowd as Blackjack Mulligan took on Big John Studd. Both men fought a hard battle inside and outside the ring. Even after the referee disqualified them, they wouldn't stop fighting. Finally Mulligan was the only one left standing as Studd staggered to his dressing room.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Jimmy Snuka toppled Rick Steamboat . . . Jim Brunzell bested Ken Patera in a cage match.

## WHITE PLAINS, N.Y.

By David Schreiber



**IVAN PUTSKI**  
vs.  
**SWEDE HANSON**



Ivan Putski showed the world that the Big Swede's vicious rule-breaking could not withstand the power of the Polish Hammer. Hanson attacked Putski early and threw him off balance. However, Putski steadily regained control of the match. Hanson absorbed a ferocious beating. When Putski knocked him through the ropes, Hans decided not to return to the ring.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Hussein Arab and Jim Valiant outlasted Dominic DeNucci and Larry Zbyszko . . . Johnny Rivera and Johnny Rodz wrestled to a draw . . . Tito Santana outmaneuvered Jose Estrada.

## ASHEVILLE, N.C.

by Andy Ward



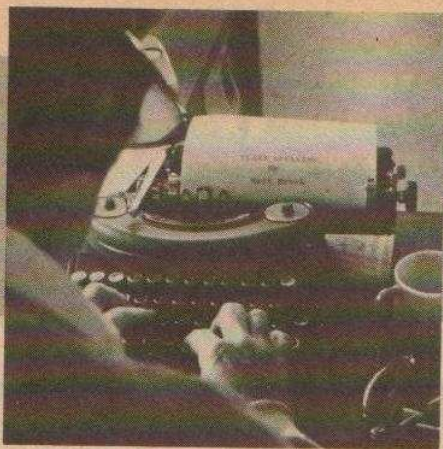
**JIM BRUNZELL**  
vs.  
**DEWEY ROBERTSON**



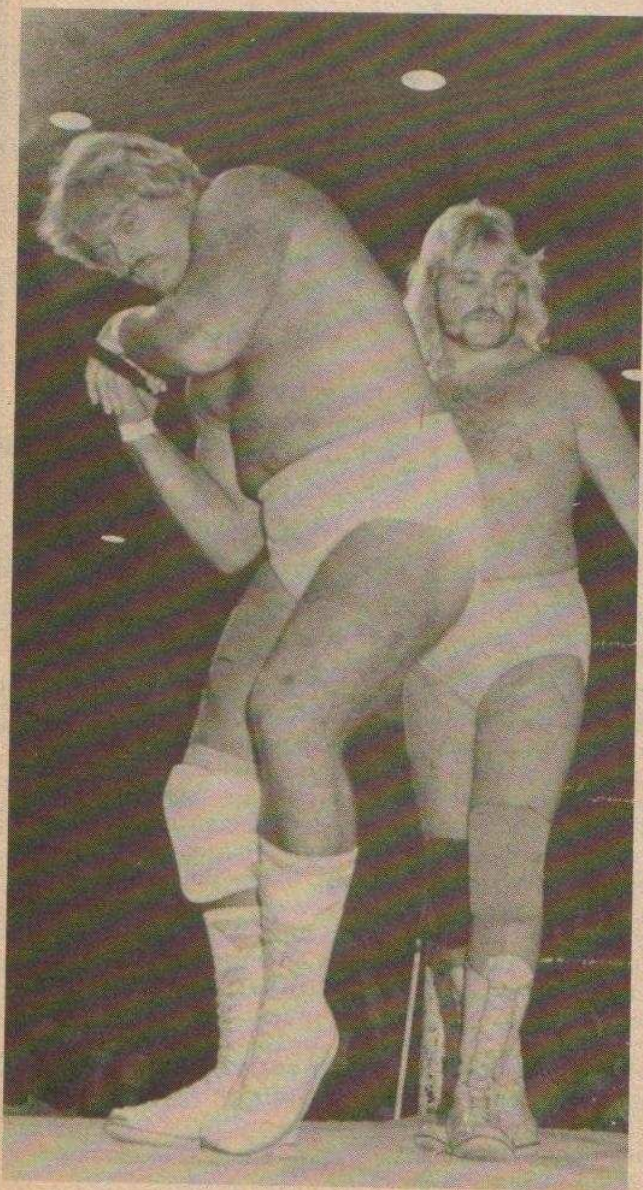
In a match for the Mid-Atlantic title, new champion Jim Brunzell put his belt on the line against recently crowned Canadian champ Dewey Robertson. This was a brilliant scientific battle. Both men stunned the crowd with a series of sterling moves. After a hard-fought bout, Brunzell emerged victorious.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Jay Youngblood beat Paul Jones in an Indian strap match . . . Rick McGraw and Don Kernodle bested Brute Bernard and Masked Scorpion . . . Mr. X I stopped Bill Starr. □





# Matt Brock's PLAIN SPEAKING

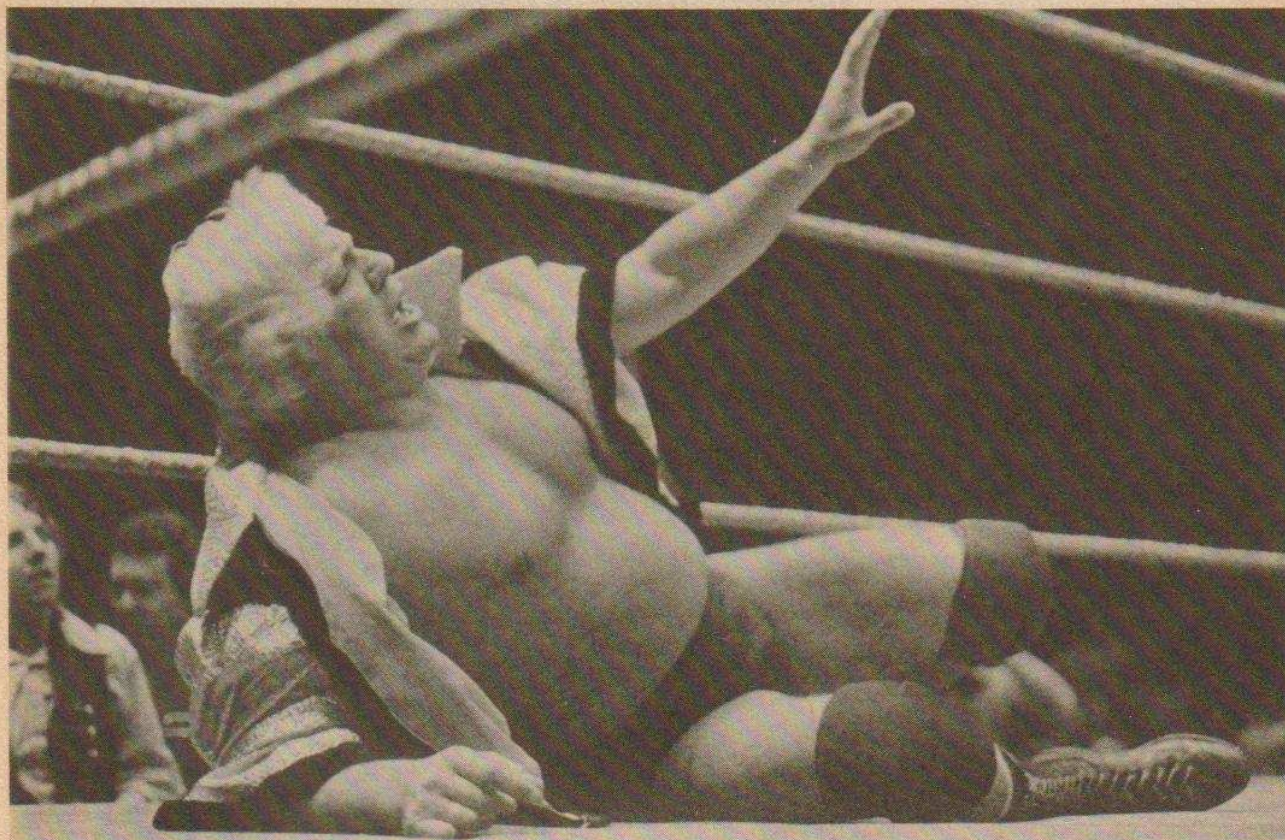


LANE & ST. JOHN

**TAMPA, FLORIDA:** I hate punks! There's a big difference between rulebreakers and punks. Let me explain the reason for my rage. Take a rulebreaker with guts. Believe it or not, they exist. A guy like Terry Funk, for example. He may ignore rules and may have a big mouth, but he's got the guts to back up his words. Most of the time, anyway. Or a Harley Race. While not a classic rulebreaker, Race manages to disregard the subtler aspects of rules on his way toward victory. But his actions support his mouth. He doesn't hide behind a pretty boy image nor does he avert painful responsibilities. Race is a man. So is Funk. Now I'll tell you about a couple of punks named Bryan St. John and Stanley Lane. This Lane kid thinks he can walk right in and appropriate a nickname. Nature Boy. Now a pretty fair country wrestler by the name of Buddy Rogers earned that nickname. Hear that, punks, earned? And Ric Flair, through the pieces of his body he's left over the nation, has also earned the privilege of calling himself "Nature Boy." Earned, privilege—concepts these two punks know nothing about. Simply because they have blond hair and big muscles and the capacity to hurt their foe, punks like this think the wrestling world owes them something. This is read by children, so I won't use the appropriate word. You must work for what you get. So don't dirty my ear with empty bragging, punks. Climb into the ring and show some guts and a little class. In a few years, perhaps you'll earn that most cherished of labels: professional wrestler. Remember, only if you deserve it.



**Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor**



**PAT PATTERSON**

**INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA:** What's Bobby Heenan up to? Many people around here are asking that very disturbing question. Seems AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel has found a way to get Heenan back in the area as his manager. And that's some pretty fancy maneuvering considering that Heenan was hit with a lifetime suspension for slugging AWA president Stanley Blackburn. Then Heenan went to Georgia, and Bockwinkel immediately began to lose his grasp on the belt. Nick had to beg Heenan to come back and promised he'd find the means to do it. Well, Nick found the means and now he's got Heenan back. Heenan gave up a lot in Georgia to return to the AWA. What is he *really* up to?

**NEW YORK, NEW YORK:** Maybe Pat Patterson will make up and realize he's just a piece of meat to people like Grand Wizard and Lou Albano. Recently, Wizard announced on television that he'd sold Patterson's contract to Albano for \$100,000. When asked how Patterson reacted to this astonishing sale, Albano arrogantly sneered that Patterson has nothing to say in this matter. Oh really? Do you get your brains beat in every night, Captain? Assuming you have brains left. Or would the Grand Wizard dare to climb within the ropes and take on a fierce opponent. As little as I like Patterson, he's still the one doing the work. Whatever Albano or Wizard offers in the way of advice can be found in a fortune cookie. □



# HOW HIS OWN BETRAYED BO

By Peter King and Stu Saks

Claiming that he was "sold out" by Lou Albano, Bobby Duncum has threatened to go to court in an attempt to nullify the contractual agreement between he and his manager, an **INSIDE WRESTLING** investigation revealed.

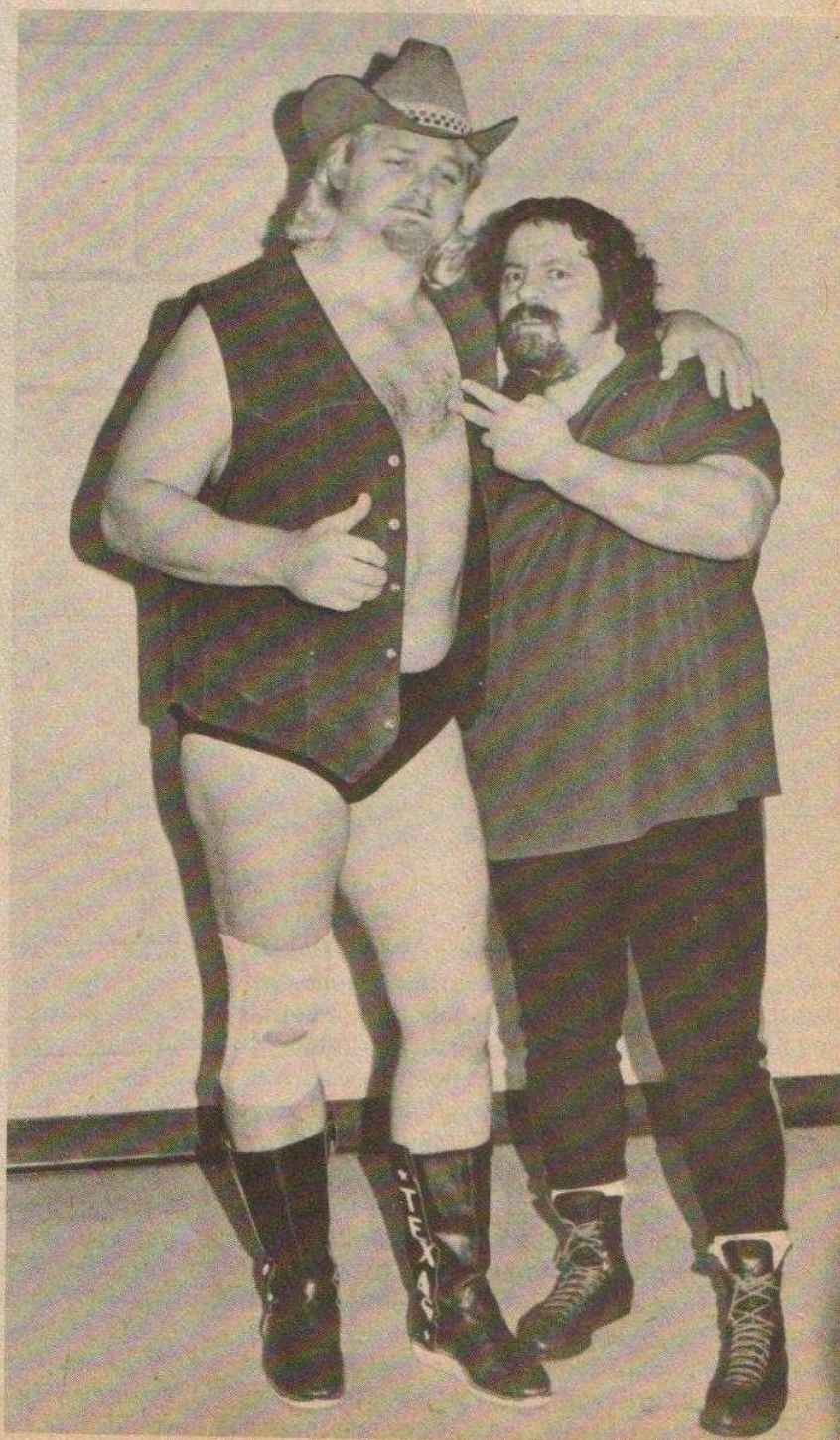
When told by **INSIDE WRESTLING** that Albano had made an agreement with the Grand Wizard to match the Texan against WWF titleholder Bob Backlund as a means to weaken the champion for his future title defense against Ken Patera, Duncum said, "If what you are telling me is the truth, I will contact my lawyer and the matter will be rectified even if it means the end of our [Duncum and Albano's] partnership."

The Grand Wizard, **INSIDE WRESTLING** learned, reduced the price in the sale of Pat Patterson from the original \$500,000 fee to \$100,000 when Albano agreed to the stipulation that Duncum wrestle Backlund just prior to his match with Patera, The Wizard's number one wrestler.

Patterson's contract became available when the Wizard felt too much of his money was tied up in stocks and other investments. "I needed extra spending money to buy clothes and jewelry," he told us.

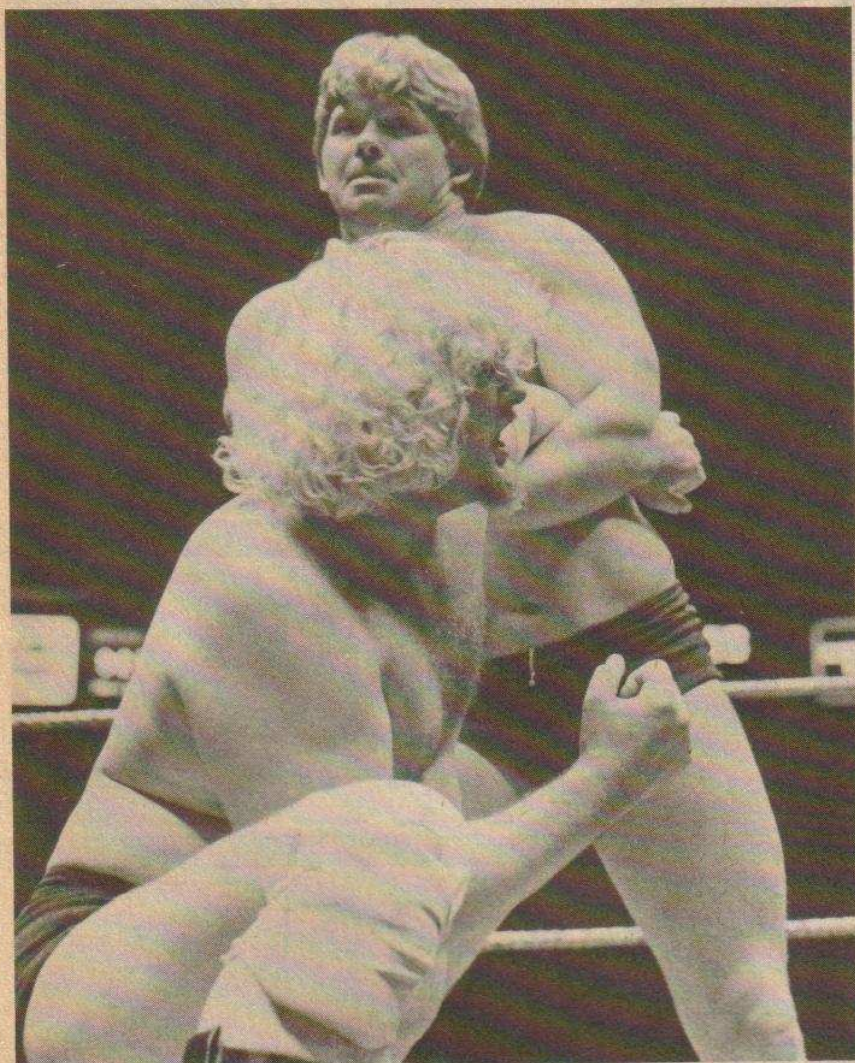
The discrepancy between how much money he originally demanded for Patterson and the

They appear to be on very good terms, but that may not last. Bobby Duncum now knows the results of **INSIDE WRESTLING'S** investigation that proves Captain Lou Albano betrayed Bobby for the sake of lowering the price tag on Pat Patterson.





# IN MANAGER BOBBY DUNCUM



Bobby Duncum and Bob Backlund fought a grueling battle in Madison Square Garden. The bout was stopped when both wrestlers were too dangerously cut to continue. According to our findings, Lou Albano agreed with the Grand Wizard to match Duncum against Backlund as a means of softening the champion for Ken Patera.

money he actually received initiated our investigation.

When Patterson was asked about the deal earlier, he smiled and said, "It's quite a thrill for me. It will be a great help to my career to wrestle under Lou Albano. And the \$500,000 he paid proves how much he really wanted me."

Patterson was immediately told that he was mistaken. The price was \$100,000. "No," he snapped. "You are absolutely wrong. I would suggest you check your facts before you go print some ridiculous lie."

We did. And if what we found was distressing to Patterson, it was devastating to Duncum.

"I was set up like a damn bowling pin," Duncum said. "Ain't nobody gonna treat me like that. I'm nobody's stooge. Hell, can you imagine me playin' the spoiler role. Well, I will. I'll spoil this entire scheme. Patera will never get a chance to challenge for the title. I'll beat Backlund and I won't give Patera or any of the Grand Weasel's boys a title shot."

"As for Albano, well, we'll wait on that."

The Captain was absolutely furious when we confronted him with our findings. He stared straight ahead for a minute while his beard twitched before finally

*(Continued on page 50)*

**The price tag on Pat Patterson's contract was reduced by \$400,000 when Lou Albano agreed with the Grand Wizard to have Bobby Duncum challenge for Bob Backlund's WWF title, just prior to Ken Patera's challenge. That would leave Backlund softened, but where does that leave Duncum?**

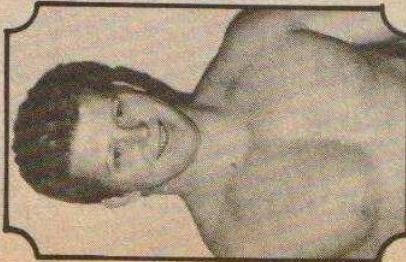


# INSIDE WRESTLING'S

# OFFICIAL RATINGS

These Ratings Are Compiled With The Assistance Of Top Wrestlers, Promoters, And Reporters. They Are Universally Accepted As Official

## World Wrestling Federation

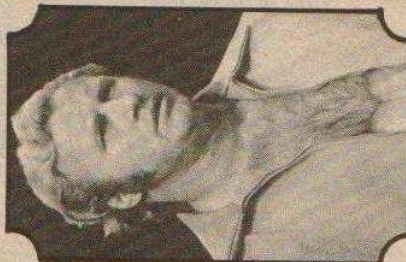


Champion:  
BOB BACKLUND



1—KEN PATERA

## American Wrestling Association

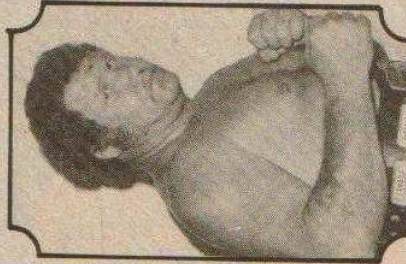


Champion:  
NICK BOCKWINKEL



1—DINO BRAVO

## National Wrestling Alliance



Champion:  
HARLEY RACE



1—DUSTY RHODES

## Most Popular Wrestlers



1—DUSTY RHODES



2—ANDRE  
THE GIANT

## Most Hated Wrestlers

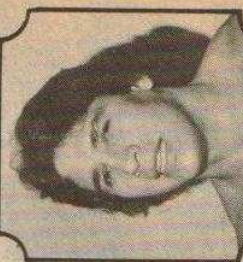


1—TERRY FUNK



2—KEN PATERA

## Tag Teams



1—IVAN PUTSKI  
& TITO SANTANA





1—KEN PATERA



2—BOBBY DUNCUM



3—PAT PATTERSON



4—IVAN PUTSKI

5—SWEDE HANSON  
6—HUSSEIN ARAB  
7—TITO SANTANA  
8—TED DIBIASE  
9—NIKOLAI VOLKOFF  
10—LARRY ZBYSKO

1—DINO BRAVO



2—VERNE GAGNE



3—BILLY ROBINSON



4—JERRY LAWLER

5—GREG GAGNE  
6—SUPER DESTROYER II  
7—BILL DUNDEE  
8—LARRY HENNIG  
9—STEVE OLSONOWSKI  
10—DOUG GILBERT

1—DUSTY RHODES



2—JIMMY SNUKA



3—TOMMY RICH



4—RAY STEVENS

5—MANNY FERNANDEZ  
6—MR. WRESTLING II  
7—RIC FLAIR  
8—KEVIN VON ERICH  
9—WAHOO McDANIEL  
10—MIKE GEORGE

THE GIANT



3—IVAN PUTSKI



4—MR. WRESTLING II



5—RICK STEAMBOAT

6—TOMMY RICH  
7—JACK BRISCO  
8—WAHOO McDANIEL  
9—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW  
10—DAVID VON ERICH

2—KEN PATERA



3—JIMMY SNUKA

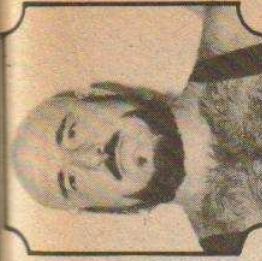


4—GREG VALENTINE



5—HARLEY RACE

6—SUPER DESTROYER II  
7—SPOILER  
8—ERNIE LADD  
9—AUSTIN IDOL  
10—JOHN STUDD



2—VERNE GAGNE & MAD DOG VACHON



3—RICK STEAMBOAT & JAY YOUNGBLOOD

4—THE SAMOANS  
5—BRYAN ST. JOHN & STANLEY LANE  
6—BRUISER BRODIE & KERRY VON ERICH  
7—AUSTIN IDOL & MASKED SUPERSTAR  
8—BARON VON RASCHKE & PAUL JONES  
9—MIKE GRAHAM & STEVE KEIRN  
10—MIL MASCARAS & DOS CARAS



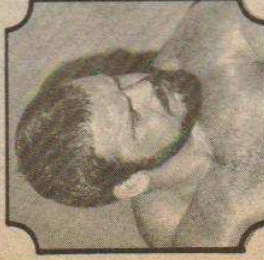
1—KEN PATERA



2—BOBBY DUNCUM



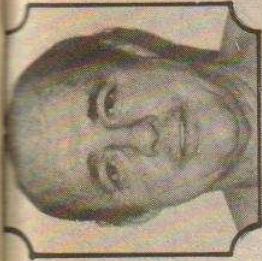
3—PAT PATTERSON



4—IVAN PUTSKI

- 5—SWEDE HANSON
- 6—HUSSEIN ARAB
- 7—TITO SANTANA
- 8—TED DiBIASE
- 9—NIKOLAI VOLKOFF
- 10—LARRY ZBYSZKO

1—DINO BRAVO



2—VERNE GAGNE



3—BILLY ROBINSON



4—JERRY LAWLER

- 5—GREG GAGNE
- 6—SUPER DESTROYER II
- 7—BILL DUNDEE
- 8—LARRY HENNIG
- 9—STEVE OLSONOWSKI
- 10—DOUG GILBERT

1—DUSTY RHODES



2—JIMMY SNUKA



3—TOMMY RICH



4—RAY STEVENS

- 5—MANNY FERNANDEZ
- 6—MR. WRESTLING II
- 7—RIC FLAIR
- 8—KEVIN VON ERICH
- 9—WAHOO McDANIEL
- 10—MIKE GEORGE

THE GIANT



3—IVAN PUTSKI



4—MR. WRESTLING II



5—RICK STEAMBOAT

- 6—TOMMY RICH
- 7—JACK BRISCO
- 8—WAHOO McDANIEL
- 9—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
- 10—DAVID VON ERICH

2—NEW PATERA



3—JIMMY SNUKA

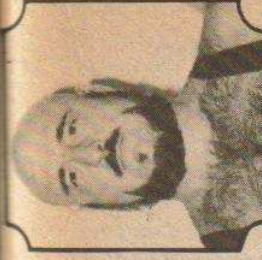


4—GREG VALENTINE



5—HARLEY RACE

- 6—SUPER DESTROYER II
- 7—SPOILER
- 8—ERNIE LADD
- 9—AUSTIN IDOL
- 10—JOHN STUDD



2—VERNE GAGNE & MAD DOG VACHON



3—RICK STEAMBOAT & JAY YOUNGBLOOD



- 4—THE SAMOANS
- 5—BRYAN ST. JOHN & STANLEY LANE
- 6—BRUISER BRODIE & KERRY VON ERICH
- 7—AUSTIN IDOL & MASKED SUPERSTAR
- 8—BARON VON RASCHKE & PAUL JONES
- 9—MIKE GRAHAM & STEVE KEIRN
- 10—MIL MASCARAS & DOS CARAS



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The entire state of Florida remains stunned. Terry Funk is no longer in the area, but his effects linger. The gunslinger has departed, but the guns he left behind still smoke

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**T**HE HURRICANE IS over. Now comes the time to examine the damage and see what can be salvaged.

The hurricane was Terry Funk. In his wake, he left the scarred and broken bodies of many of Florida's top wrestlers. Some will wait until their wounds heal. Some of them will never heal either physically or mentally.

Before Funk arrived, Florida

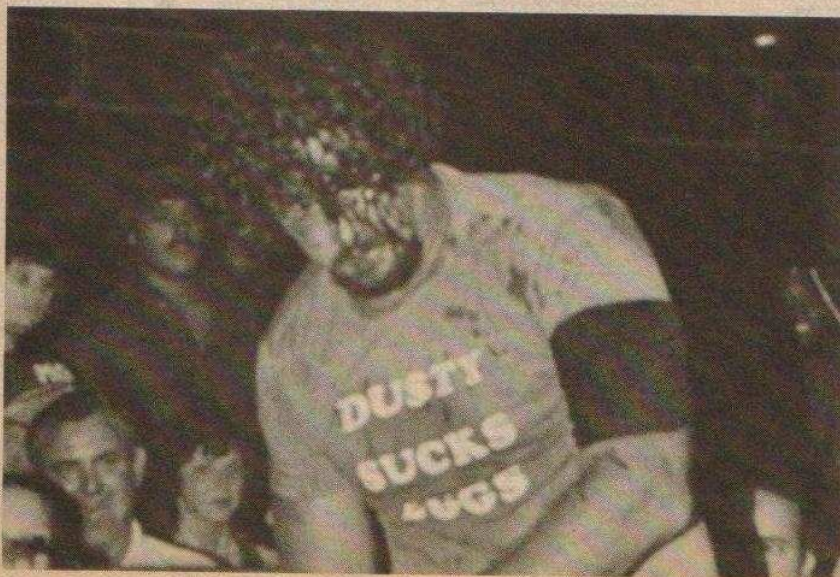
enjoyed one of the most varied and exciting wrestling communities in the world. Wrestlers of almost every type flourished in the state. Then came Funk.

Almost single-handedly, he changed the face of Florida wrestling. All of a sudden, he was the main attraction, the man others had to beat. Everyone trained to confront Funk. By the time a match was arranged, Terry's

opponent was tense and just a little bit scared. Funk took advantage of the situation. Some he only defeated. Others he sent to the hospital.

That kind of devastation does something to a community. In wrestling, where everyone's business is everyone else's business, Funk's reign of terror was the main concern of everyone. Training schedules and strategies were

# TERRY FUNK LEAVES FL CAN THE DAMAGE BE UNDONE?



Terry Funk's feelings for Dusty Rhodes are quite evident by the T-shirt he had made up especially for his "street fight" with Sweet Brown Sugar (left and above).

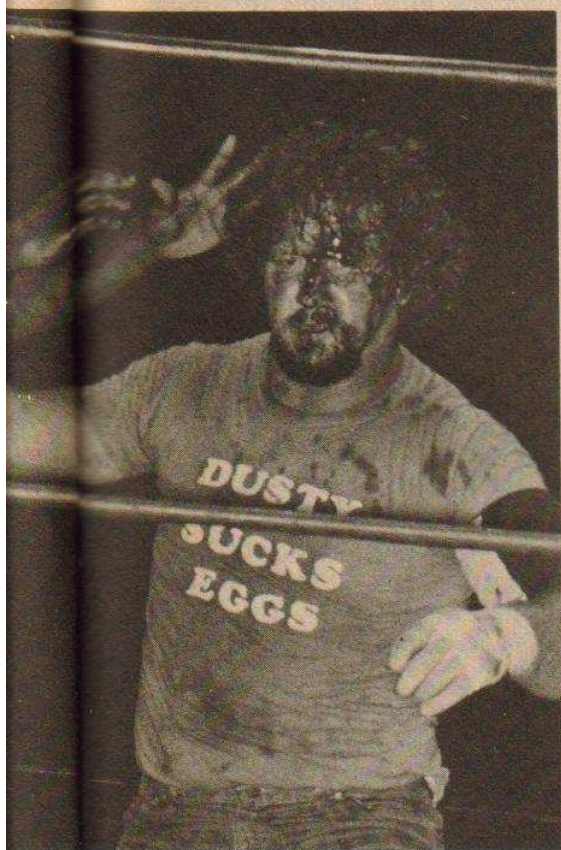


geared to Funk. Even if you didn't wrestle Funk, you wrestled someone who wrestled him. No one is the same after wrestling Terry. Afterwards, a man is just a little bit crueler, a little bit more ruthless. All over Florida, the battles became uglier, more brutal. All because of Terry Funk.

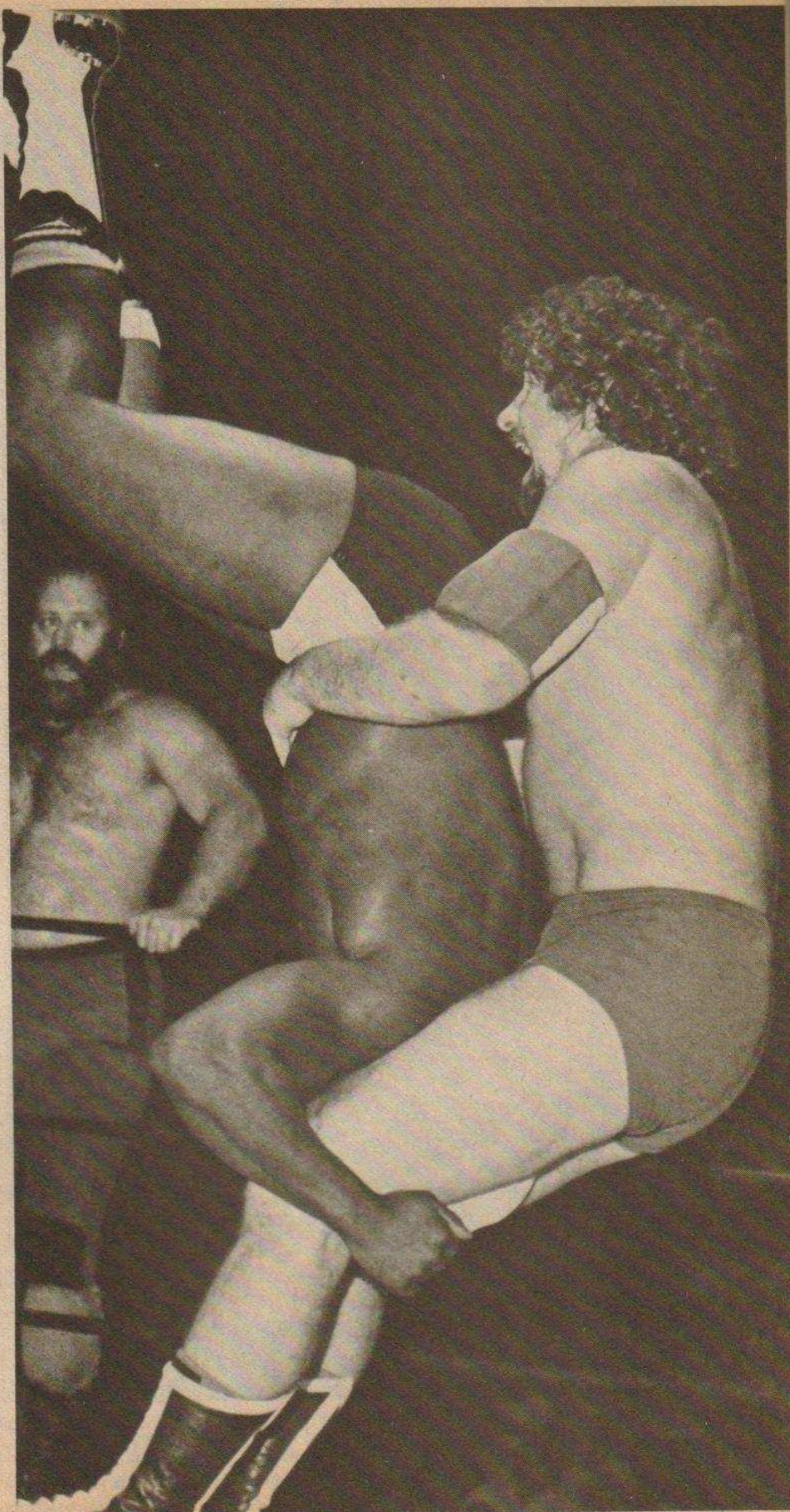
Something has changed in Terry Funk. No one was quite sure why, but he has never been so devastating. What he has done to Florida wrestling is unprecedented in the sport's history.

"He was evil," Mike Graham contends, "pure evil. There was something inhuman about him. The look in his eyes when he had an opponent in trouble. The look was

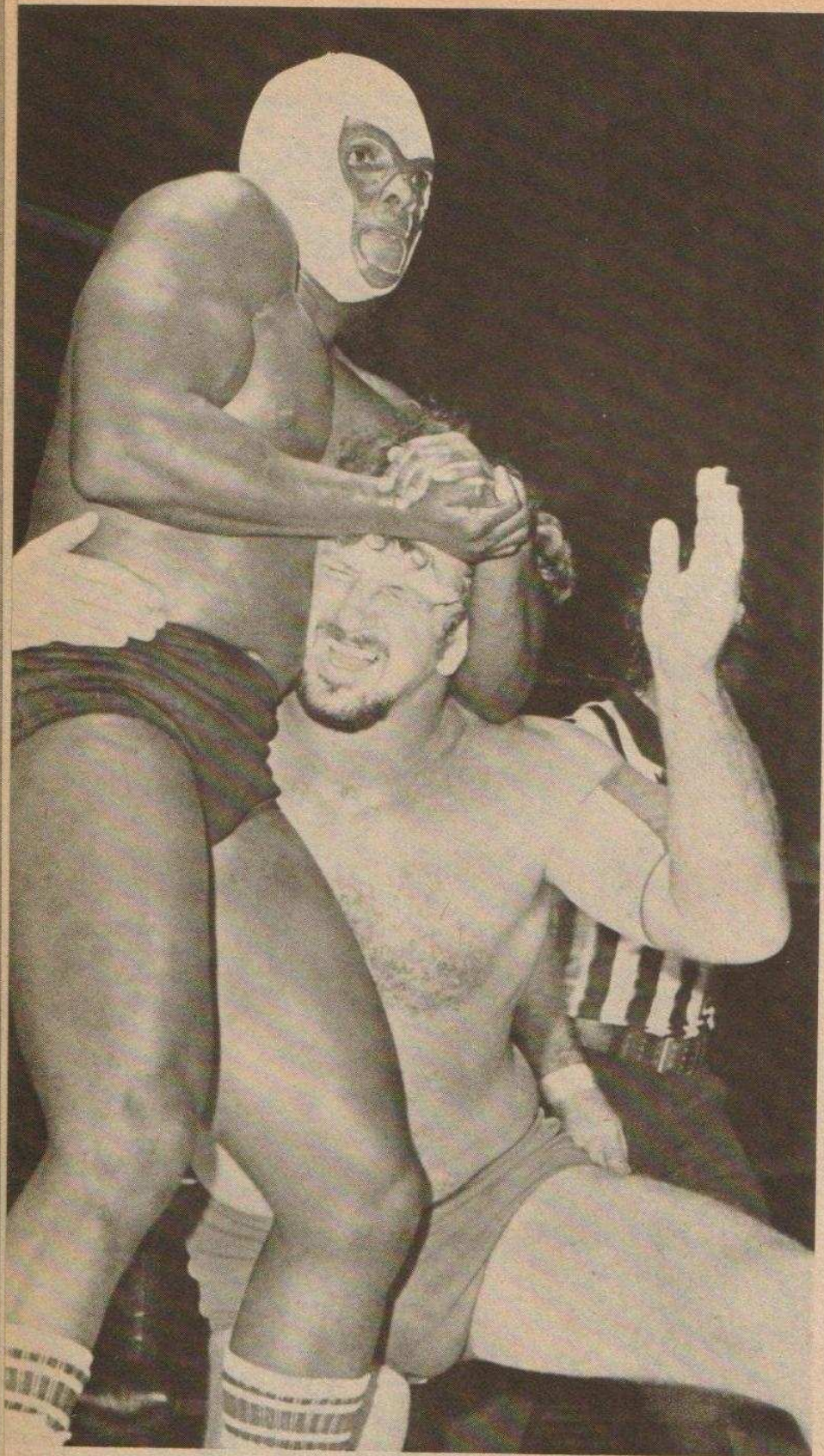
# FLORIDA...



Terry Funk left an imprint in Florida, just as he left an imprint on Sweet Brown Sugar's head as a result of this piledriver (right). The state of Florida will never forget this man.







Sugar holds Funk in a headlock (above), but the resourceful Funk will figure some devious method of escape. Undoubtedly, the most noteworthy damage Funk caused was when he came from ringside, sneak-attacked Rhodes and broke his arm (top right), forcing a premature conclusion to Dusty's NWA title reign.



cold and gleeful at the same time. You hated that look and you feared that look. Something inside you said that to call yourself a man you had to confront that look in combat.

"Funk drew people to wrestle him by some force I don't understand. Beating Funk became the most important thing in everyone's lives. I was talking about Funk with Steve Keirn. He said, 'I'd sell my soul to beat Funk.' We were silent for a moment, because we got scared. We realized Steve really meant it.

"He wasn't talking about a deal with the devil. He was admitting that every principle he held dear didn't mean a thing against a victory over Funk. Now Steve is the kind of guy who would rather be right than champion. But this time, he'd rather win than be right. That's an incredible, horrible change. But it shows what kind of influence Funk had over the rest of us.

"Of course I'm glad he's gone," Graham concluded. "I'm not afraid of him, but I'm scared of what he did to us. I don't know what's going to happen now. I think every wrestler in Florida changed because Funk was here. The difference may not be evident to the fans, but it's there. We're all

*(Continued on page 63)*



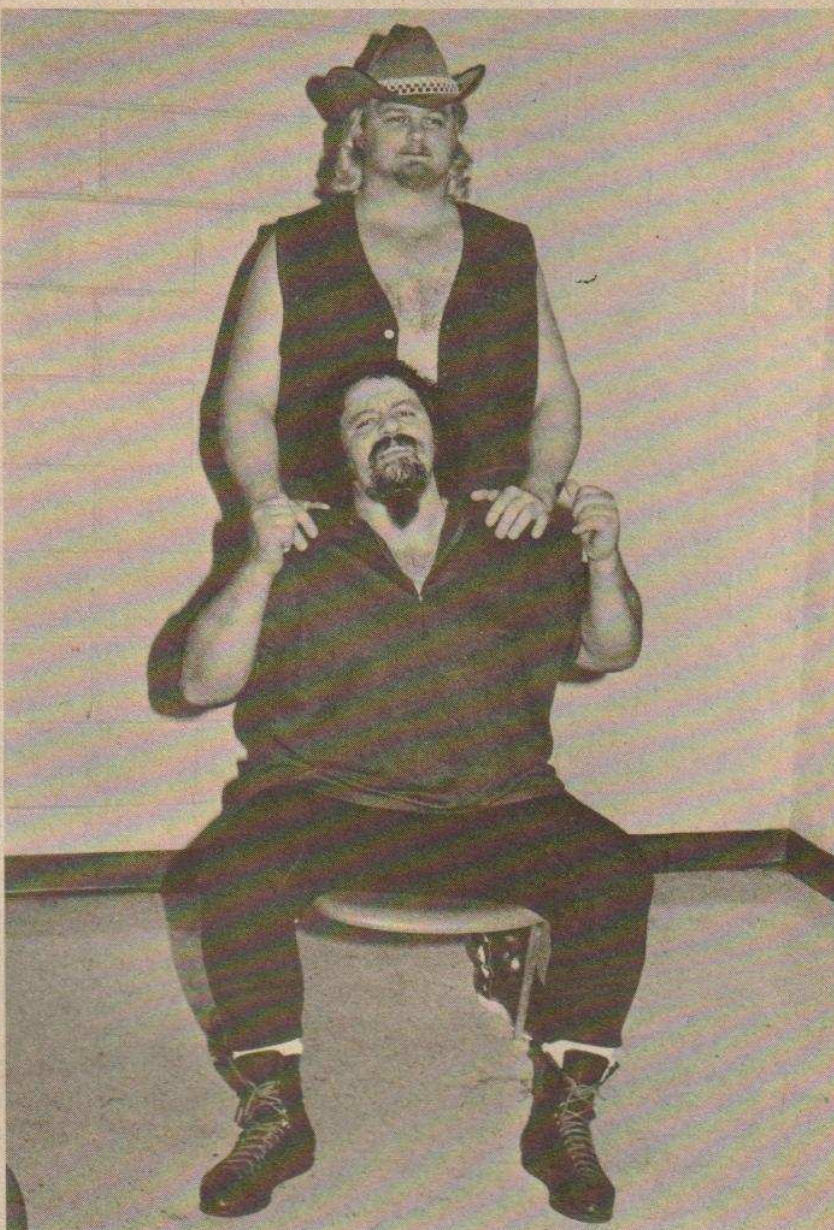
# INSIDE WRESTLING

44

## capsule profile

BOB DUNCUM

**B**IG AND SAVAGE, despises both scientific wrestlers and the art of scientific wrestling ("That's for them without guts to rough it out. I don't need no pansy maneuvers to help me win") . . . Loves bloodbaths ("Far as I'm concerned, bloodshed is what wrestlin' is all about. If you got the guts to shake off the blood and pain and still win, then you got the guts to be champ. Somethin' Howdy Doody Backlund ain't got") . . . His killer finishing hold is the Bulldog Headlock ("Nothin' gives me greater satisfaction than listening to heads cracking when I got some bum in that hold. Man, it makes everythin' worth livin' for") . . . Currently managed by Captain Lou Albano ("I gotta give the Captain credit. He knows talent and he knows when to dump talent. He's the only man I ever met with almost as much guts as me. Right now, I consider the Captain my friend") . . .



Big Bob Duncum poses with Captain Lou Albano in the Madison Square Garden dressing room. Duncum, the master of the bulldog headlock, would rather inflict pain on an opponent than win a title.

Credits much of his success to adolescent infatuation with rodeos ("Rodeos are where I first learned to wrestle. After you've brought down some big monster, a bum like Backlund or Sammartino is child's play") . . . Says world titles mean little to him ("I'd rather inflict terrible pain on someone than win a title"). □



**CAPSULE PROFILE PIN-UP**

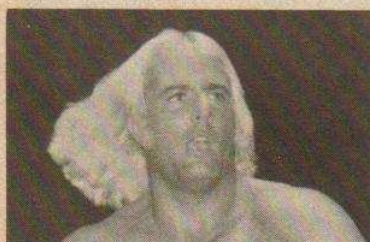


**BOB DUNCUM**



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Each day, out of the thousands of letters we receive, hundreds of them are from fans asking the whereabouts of their favorite wrestler. In this special column, we will try to answer the questions you ask the most!



## AUSTIN IDOL

Arrogant and ambitious, Idol is currently co-holder of the Georgia tag team title with Masked Superstar. Idol continues to claim himself the best-looking and most talented wrestler in the world. Such boasts have angered Georgia fan favorites, who warn Idol to shut up or else pay the price for his big mouth.

## DEWEY ROBERTSON

Dewey recently won the coveted Canadian heavyweight championship. In order to show himself a real champ, Dewey has embarked on a violent tour of the Mid-Atlantic area. Among the men he has challenged and confronted is Mid-Atlantic champion Jim Brunzell. Already, their matches take on the trappings of legend.

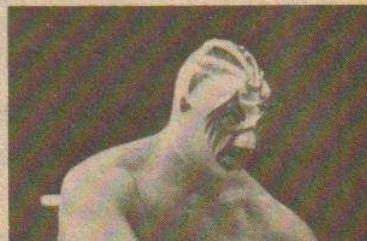


## HULK HOGAN

Women shriek with joy at the sight of Hogan's massive, tanned physique. However, his opponents manage to restrain themselves. At least until Hogan enters the ring and, encouraged by manager Fred Blassie, he begins tormenting WWF foes.

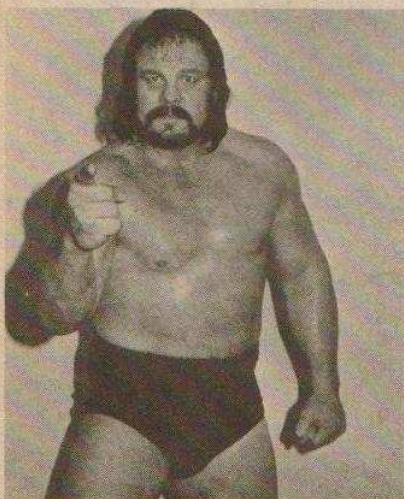
## MIL MASCARAS

Mil sends his greetings from Japan, where he is contending for several tag team titles with brother Dos Caras. Mil promises his loyal fans that his Japanese stay is not permanent and he'll be returning to the States very soon.





# ONE O



Blackjack Mulligan has nothing but contempt for his old friend and partner, John Studd. He accuses Studd of allowing himself to be controlled by Buddy Rogers' hypnosis.

*(Theirs is a familiar, tragic tale. Two friends who trusted each other. They traveled together, ate together, fought together. When one tottered helplessly in the ring, rules crumbled before friendship and aid was extended, regardless of the penalties incurred. That is what friendship meant to these two warriors. Yet life has a way of pulling friends apart. One man decided against the ways of rulebreaking. His friend and partner didn't understand. Now they are enemies. Hateful, blood-thirsty enemies. From Texas, Blackjack Mulligan confronts John Studd, training in Virginia.)*



Picturephones  
courtesy of Bell Telephone

**JOHN STUDD:**

Hey, Whitehead, who dialed the phone for you?

**BLACKJACK MULLIGAN:**

The name, punk, is Blackjack.

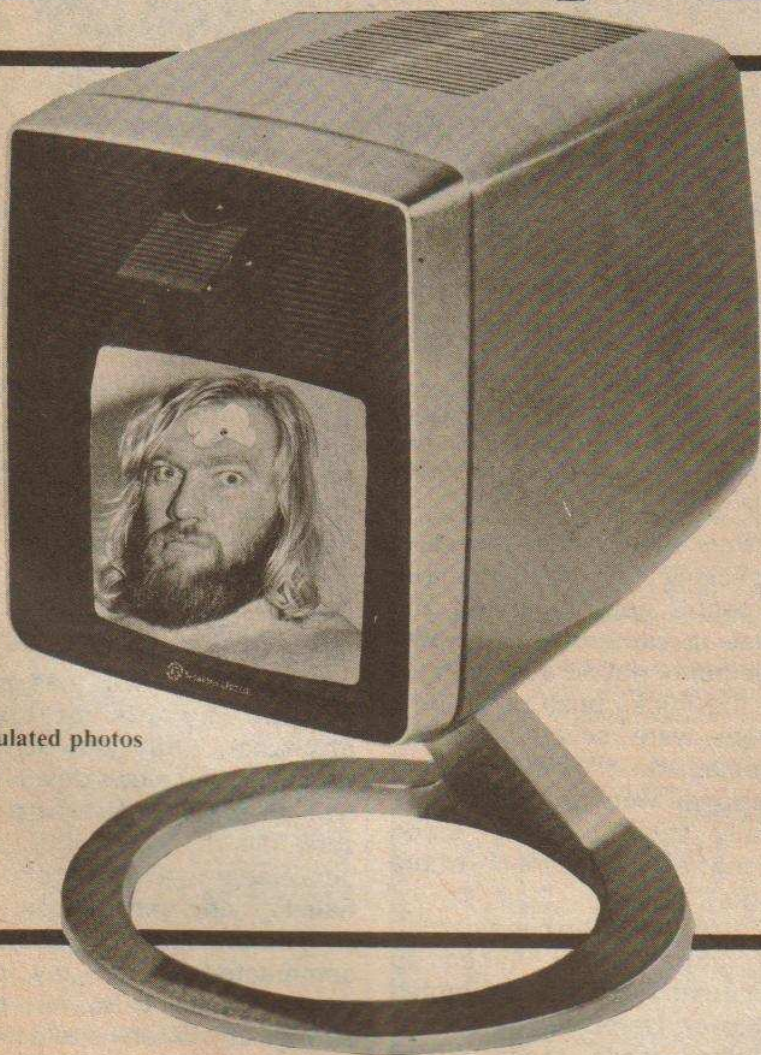
**JS:** I thought it was coward. You know, you can call me gutless, or you can call me traitor.

**BM:** Yeah, you got a big mouth when you're talkin' into a

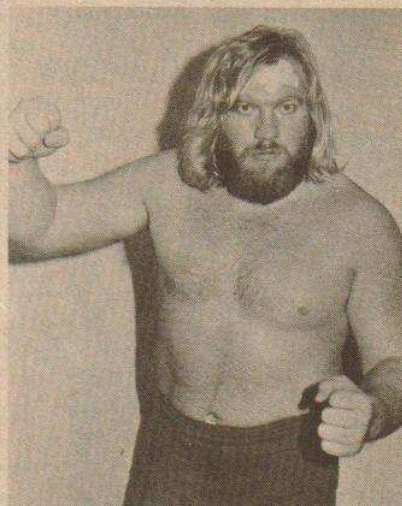
**Every month the telephone wires will crackle as two top grapplers rage and argue. We'll print the unedited transcript of their conversations, giving the fans a privileged glimpse at wrestlers which can be found nowhere else**



# ON ONE



Simulated photos



John Studd has never forgiven Blackjack Mulligan for deserting him and becoming a scientific wrestler. He claims that Buddy Rogers will, in time, make him champion of the world.

phone, Studd.  
**JS:** Shut you up often enough.  
**BM:** Never with a legit hold.  
**JS:** Legit? Could you tell? All you can do is cry in the ring, turkey. All the world saw the way I pulverized your ugly kisser in a streetfight match.  
**BM:** You lyin' cheat. You're nothin' but a big bum. You need Rogers to wipe your nose everytime someone bloodies it.

**JS:** Don't you talk bad about Buddy.  
**BM:** What's there good to say?  
**JS:** He's a great man. He took men who were abused by former friends and made us whole. He took Jimmy Snuka under his wing after his friends hurt him. Now Jimmy is champ. Just a matter of time before I'm champion.  
**BM:** How's he gonna do that, by

hypnotizing you?  
**JS:** Course not.  
**BM:** Would you know?  
**JS:** Know what?  
**BM:** If he hypnotized you.  
**JS:** Who?  
**BM:** Rogers.  
**JS:** You talkin' bad about Rogers?  
**BM:** You answered my question.  
**JS:** What'd you ask?  
**BM:** Uh, tell me, Studd, uh, you thinkin' about teamin' with Valentine now that he's back in the Mid-Atlantic area?  
**JS:** Not sure.  
**BM:** It's a yes or no. Valentine is your type of wrestler.  
**JS:** Yeah, mean.  
**BM:** So why wouldn't you?  
**JS:** Uh, no reason, uh, I'd have to think about it.  
**BM:** Or ask Buddy Rogers?

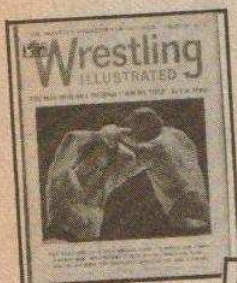
*(Continued on page 64)*



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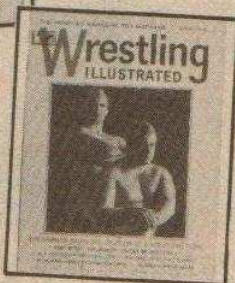


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## THE INSIDER

(Continued from Page 14)



The fast-spreading rumor that George Steele retired from wrestling to join a convent is strictly rumor. The last time "The Animal" was in church, he chewed a Bible.

"You know, when they talk, especially that crazy Terry, a lot of people get intimidated. But what it came down to was whether or not we were going to let the Funks push us around. There were several pay-offs rejected, and some talk of blackmail went around, but we finally stuck together, stood strong and told them where to go."

Terry Funk, who has since left for Japan, was asked to comment on the attempted takeover. He played dumb.

"Who needs those stupid four-eyed promoters?" he shouted. "I don't even need wrestling. Every beautiful actress in Hollywood wants me to be her leading man in multi-million dollar movies."

Maybe you should go back to Hollywood, Terry. The NWA certainly wouldn't miss you.

### RUMOR VS. FACT

**RUMOR:** George Steele has unofficially retired from wrestling to join a convent and

lead the life of the good book!

**FACT:** This rumor was apparently started by a fan from Michigan who mistook a downtown Detroit priest for the beast-like Steele.

"The Animal" has not turned to the priesthood.

### INJURY REPORT

**OLE ANDERSON** has been warned by his personal physician that unless the grappling star slows down from his hectic, demanding schedule, he will suffer from occasional periods of exhaustion and dehydration.

"That's okay," Anderson commented. "Even my own doctor doesn't know how strong I am. When he told me to slow down, I fired him!"

**DUSTY RHODES'** right elbow is extremely sore, and he has been hesitant in recent matches to use his famed "Bionic Elbowsmash." But "The Dream" promises that he will wrestle in pain, and that the feared elbowsmash will once again be crashing down on rulebreakers' heads before too long.

That's it for this month. Catch you later. ☐



## Flair vs. Rogers

(Continued from Page 25)

match. Their careers would be over and they never had any say in the matter. That's evil.

"Wrestlers go into this sport because they want control over their futures. None of this nonsense about having to depend on teammates. You take all the glory or all the blame. But Rogers isn't doing that. As far as I'm concerned, he's a criminal.

"I don't care if the guys volunteered to be hypnotized. How do they know what's going on? Rogers could've promised them one thing and lied about it. I wouldn't put it past the rat.



A badly battered Buddy Rogers battles Ric Flair from his knees. Winning the match would not be enough for either wrestler. They both intended to maim the other.

"I used to think Buddy Rogers was the greatest wrestler the world has ever known. If anyone told me someday I would be wrestling him, trying to run him out of the area, I'd have called the guy looney. Tomorrow night, I'll be trying to run Rogers outta town. Crazy."

The night to which Flair referred was crazy indeed. Buddy Rogers strutted into the

(Continued on page 48)

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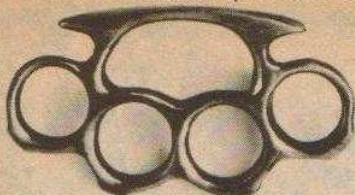
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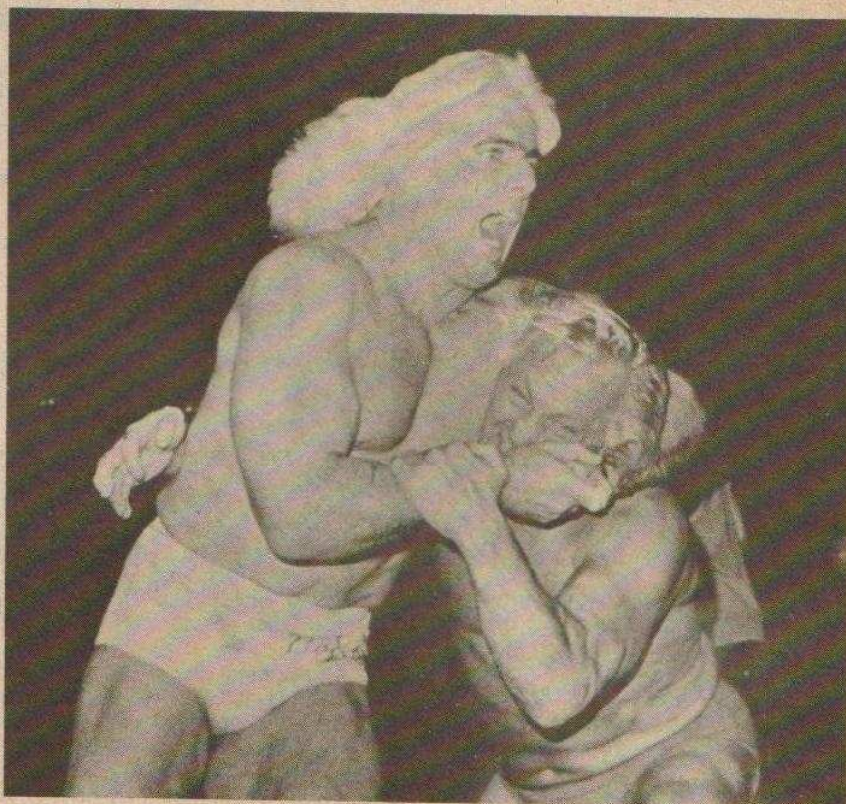
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## Flair vs. Rogers

(Continued from Page 47)



Both Flair and Rogers knew that they risked disqualification, but that did not matter. This was a battle for personal survival. But more importantly, in Flair's eyes, this was a battle for the survival of the sport. Rogers is about to escape a Flair headlock (above) Ric grabs Rogers' hair to set up a solid right to the top of the head (below).



arena like a king about to be coronated. He ignored Flair until the bell sounded. Ric's nervousness was evident. For the first time in his life, he was wrestling for more than Ric Flair. The mantle of hero felt uncomfortable.

Once the bell rang, though, Flair was an avenger with a will. He rushed at Rogers with overwhelming power. It took all of Rogers' veteran knowledge to withstand the assault. It was an awesome display of wrestling virtuosity and brutality.

The rules were forgotten but not in fits of rage. This was the most controlled, vicious cheating anyone had ever witnessed. The two men weren't interested in winning. Each figured on being disqualified. They were looking to injure the other, wound the other, do



anything in their power to end their opponent's career. There was no anger. There was only cold hatred.

The crowd watched in a stunned silence, a group of onlookers helplessly watching a tragedy unfold. Caught in the cold fury of the moment, the crowd never cheered.

Finally, the referee brought an end to the brawl. He disqualified both men. The official admitted later, "I wasn't sure they'd stop brawling. They might've kept



The referee was grateful that Flair and Rogers stopped brawling once he ruled a double-disqualification. If not, he would have called in the police, he said. Above: Flair elbowsmashes Rogers as the bout draws to a finish.

going no matter what. I was lucky they broke. I don't know what I could've done if they'd kept wrestling. Probably have to call the cops."

Later that night, Buddy Rogers, surrounded by his wrestlers, left the arena. Rogers disappeared from the Mid-Atlantic region and hasn't been seen since. Ric Flair stayed behind and watched him leave.

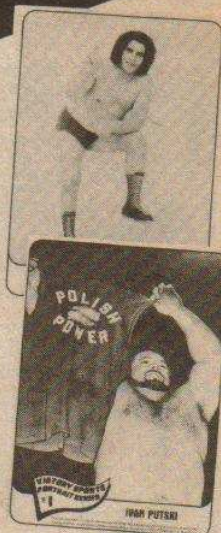
"There goes a once great man," Flair mused, "who just wanted too much power. He's got the power. Too bad to get it, he had to lose the greatness."

Then head bowed, alone, Ric Flair walked to his car. ☐

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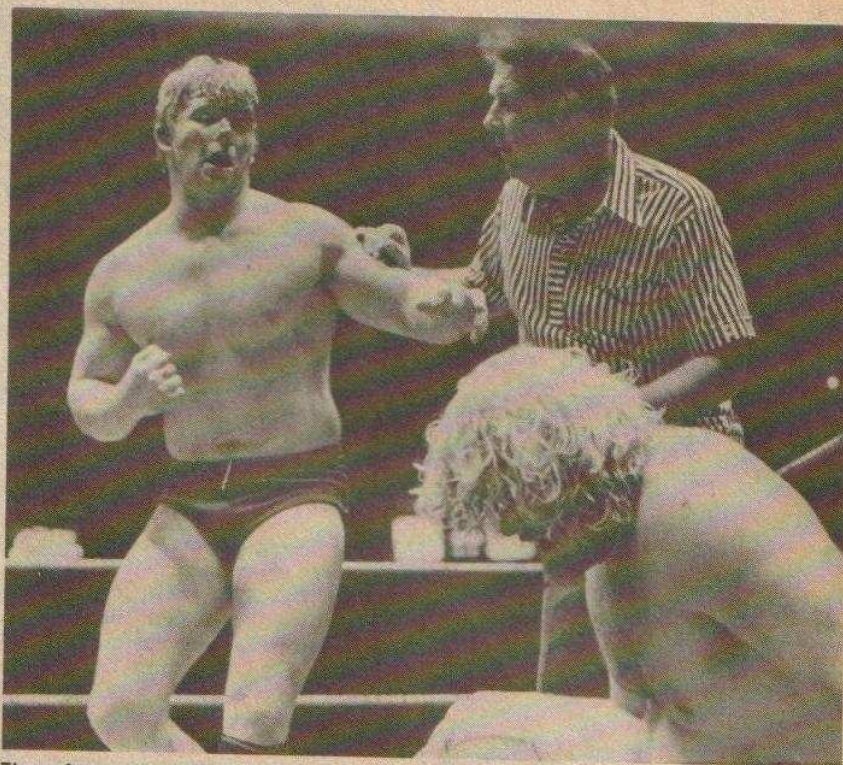
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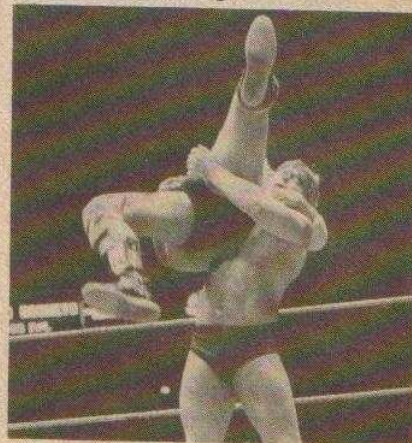
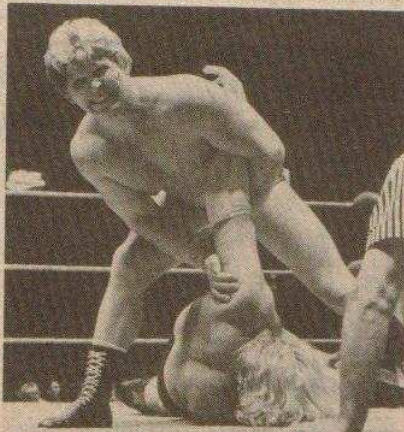
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## BOBBY DUNCUM

(Continued from Page 35)



The referee examines Bob Backlund's gashed forehead as the champion goes after a fallen Bobby Duncum (above). Backlund tries to stretch Duncum's arm out of its socket (below left). The champ lifts Duncum for his favorite finishing hold, the atomic spine crusher (below right). Backlund could not pin the Texan, however. The match ended as a draw, but both wrestlers took a tremendous beating.



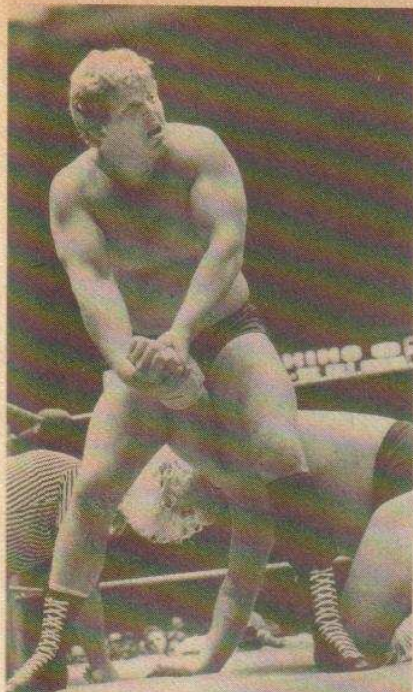
responding. "As usual, your facts are twisted. My deal with the Wizard was for \$100,000, with no stipulations. And I don't know why I'm tellin' you this. It's none of your business and none of those slob readers what happens between me and the Wizard when it comes to business deals."

But what about your wrestlers, Duncum and Patterson?

"I don't know why Pat thought it was a half-million dollar deal. He's wrong, just plain wrong. And as for Duncum, your magazine might have ruined our partnership with your slanderish statements. If any damage was done, there will be a forthcoming lawsuit. And I've got the best lawyers money can buy, my friend."

Albano would be wise to hold on





The referee asks Duncum if he wants to submit to the pain of Backlund's armlock. Was Duncum used as a spoiler to give Ken Patera a better chance at winning the title?

to his money. The Grand Wizard is not about to support his story. "The Captain can say what he likes," the Wizard said. "But I'm saying this: The deal was one of the greatest coups ever pulled off in professional wrestling. And the Grand Wizard isn't ashamed to talk about it. I didn't want to lose Patterson. He was good for me. I was good for him. But he had his shot at the WWF title, he blew it, and now he seems content to be Inter-Continental champion. Well, that's fine if that's what he wants.

"But the Grand Wizard never settles for second best. If you work for me, you better be on your way to the top. And that's where Ken Patera is going.

"Look, we didn't need Duncum to soften Backlund up. But everything is working to plan. If Duncum does beat Backlund, I gambled and lost. If not, Ken Patera will be right there."

From Duncum's reaction, though, perhaps it was Albano who took the gamble. A gamble he's about to lose. ☐

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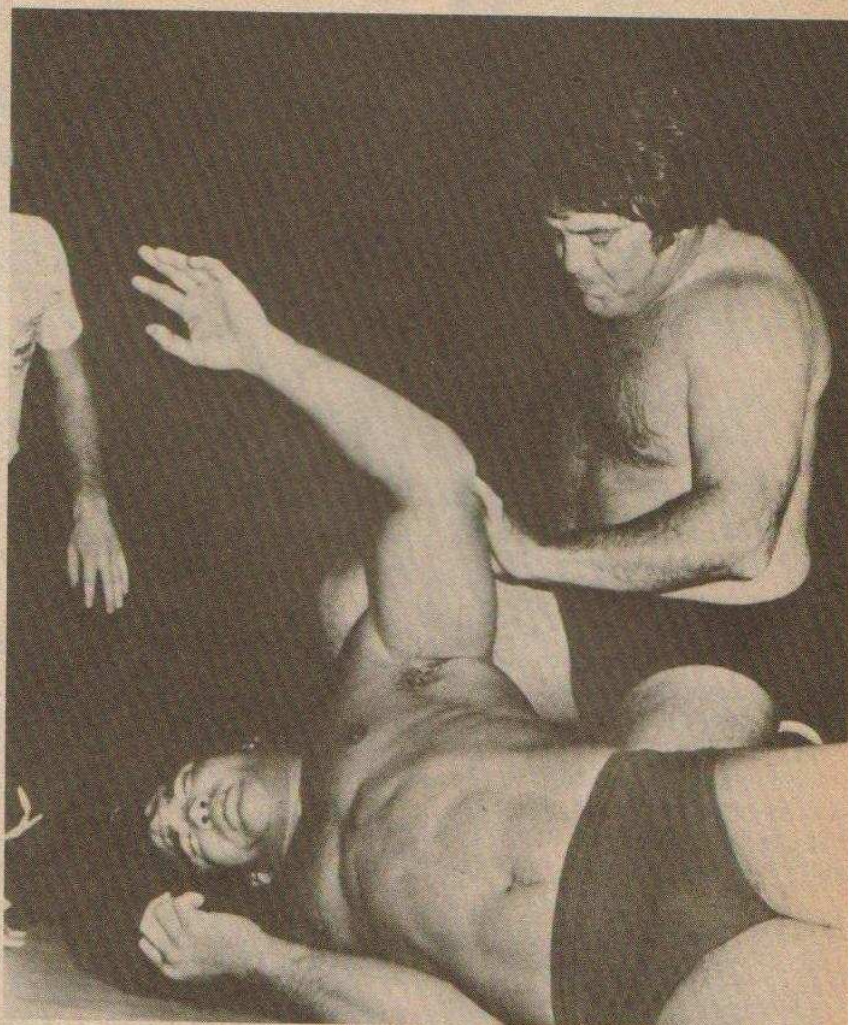
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## ON THE ROAD

(Continued from Page 8)



saying, huh, creep?" Jones snarled, advancing toward me. Obviously he thought physical intimidation would work. He was right. I retreated slightly, then found courage. I repeated my accusation.

"If I blackmailed Steamboat, think I'd tell you?" Jones shouted, quivering with rage. "I don't like to mention his name, I hate his name, I don't like to say Steamboat. He's a worm, a sniveling, cowardly worm who stabbed me in the back and twisted the blade until I bled.

"I hate him, I hate his name and I won't say it and I won't talk to you, hear? Now get out," Jones almost threw me out bodily. Our brief confrontation was enough. I knew he was my man.

I still didn't know what he had

Paul Jones punishes Rick Steamboat in the ring. But what effect does he have on the young wrestler outside the ring. Gary Morgenstein's investigation, while almost costing him his life, has revealed the startling answer.

on Steamboat. I didn't know how to stop this sordid coercion. All I had was truth. Armed with that, I again met with Steamboat.

I told him what had happened. He remained expressionless. Perhaps I was wrong. I shrugged, disappointed, and got up to leave. He grabbed my wrist, lowering me back to the table. With tears glistening in his big brown eyes, he nodded and turned away.

Rick Steamboat knows he has an ally. He needs courage to fight back. He has me. Does he have the fans?



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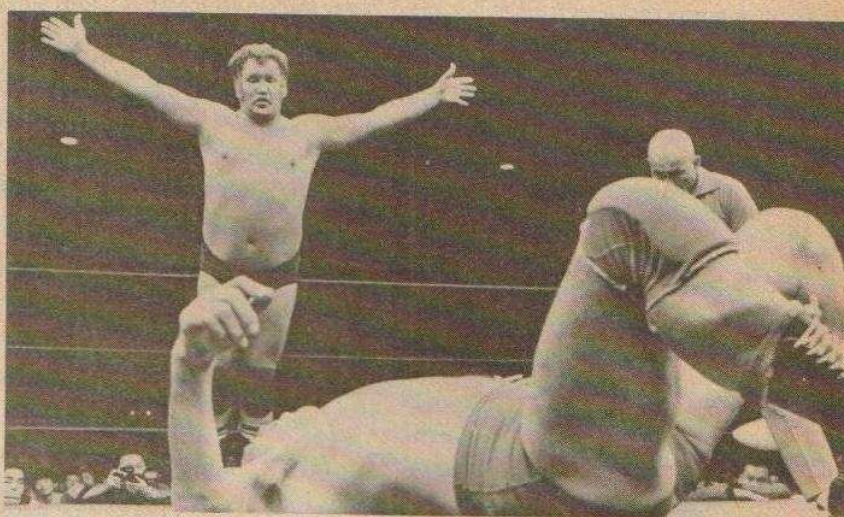
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# BODYSLAMS & PINFALLS

(Continued from Page 10)



Race lost the belt to Baba the Giant, but he studied his mistakes and was more prepared for the rematch. Harley prepares to headbutt the fallen Baba and regain the NWA championship.

was finished.

"Hell, I've had friends tell me to develop flashy moves. 'Get a great elbowsmash' or 'Jump off the top rope a lot' or some other stupid suggestion. That's kid stuff. Only people who want fans do things like that. I don't want fans. I want victories. You get to be champ, the fans need you.

"I learned a long time ago that people don't like me. Oh, I've got fans, but not like Dusty Rhodes. Dusty is lovable. So are kittens. You don't respect kittens. You drown them. Once they get tired of Dusty, they'll drown him. They won't drown me. They respect me.

"I've seen guys be loved by the fans and then rejected. It eats up their insides. They get wasted, stupid, and useless. It'll happen to Rhodes, to Steamboat, Graham, and all the others. Not me. I don't care about fans. I won't go to them. Let them come to me. They can't

reject me. I'm champion.

"Too many guys worry about what the history books will say about them. Not me. Once I'm dead, what the hell does it matter? No, I don't care how I'm remembered. I just care about what happens while I'm here.

"That's how come I beat Rhodes and Baba after they took my title. They wanted to prove they were great champions. They took risks, made mistakes. They lost. I don't care about being great. I care about winning.

"I don't make the same mistake twice. When I lose, I find out why. Then I find out how to correct it. That's how come I remain champion.

"You'll get a lot of guys telling you how hard it is to understand why someone wins and someone loses.

They'll use words like 'fate' and 'magic.' They use words like that because then they don't have to think. I think. I win. There's no magic in it. My secret is hard work. I come prepared to win."

Harley Race will come prepared to win for many years to come.



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## BEHIND THE DOOR

(Continued from Page 12)

where good guys turn bad and bad guys turn good as often as the sun rises. He is disillusioned by the number of friends he has lost. He doesn't know if he can trust the converted villains who call themselves his friends. He has seen Buddy Rogers warp the minds of his own wrestlers by using a rare and possibly irreversible form of hypnosis. He has tried but he cannot change the tide.

Now, all that's left is his own personal challenge. And until he meets and overcomes that challenge, Mr. Wrestling will not exist.

Tim Woods must avenge Mr. Wrestling's most humiliating moment of his life. Without any provocation, and in front of millions of television viewers, Mr. Wrestling was maliciously ambushed by the unholy combination of Rogers and Snuka. He suffered a neck injury that had him confined to the hospital for over a week. What suffered most, however, was his seemingly ever-optimistic view of the sport.

"I was having a lot of doubts before that incident," Woods said, "but I kept them to myself. This was the breaking point. It's one thing to use treacherous tactics in the ring. That's bad enough, but at least everything is happening right out there in front of you. When someone sneak-attacks you . . . oh, something must be done."

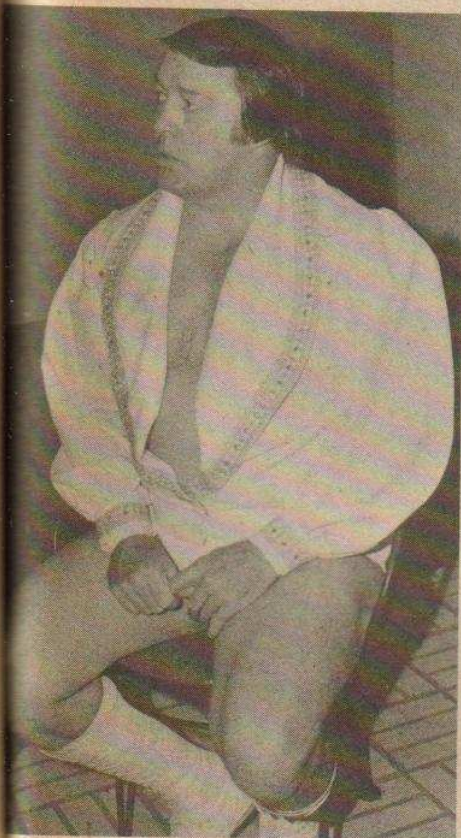
Woods knows what he has to do. Before he could bring Mr. Wrestling back, he must convincingly defeat both Rogers and Snuka. He has made this vow public, which brings out a very important question.

Knowing the only chance that



Woods will ever wear the mask again is if he defeats Rogers and Snuka, can't the two rule-breakers simply refuse to wrestle him? There is absolutely nothing to stop them from doing this. These two are not driven by pride. When challenged, they could just as easily run as accept. It all depends on what they think would suit them best.

And what would suit them more than Tim Woods never appearing as Mr. Wrestling again? Nothing.



A somber Tim Woods explains that he will not appear as Mr. Wrestling again until he avenges the attack by Jimmy Snuka and Buddy Rogers.

It's very important that the fans let Tim know that if he is refused these bouts, that the fans are 100 percent behind him and would not feel that they were let down if he dons the mask without first reaching his goal. Mr. Wrestling is too meaningful to risk his extinction. □

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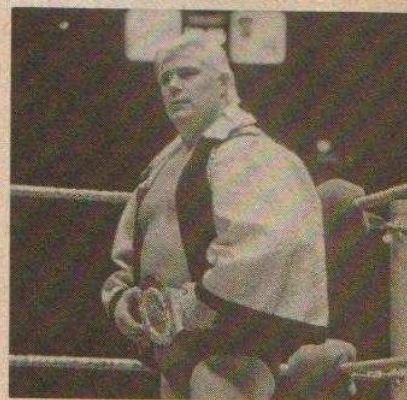


## SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from Page 18)

### APTER IS A BUM

Bill Apter's snide remarks in his column, "Names Makin' News," makes me nauseous. Everytime he mentions a tough guy, he adds some snide little remark. Like? I'll tell you. Like when he says "despicable" manager Buddy Rogers. Despicable? Does Apter know how tough it is to be a successful manager? Does Apter know how hard a man like Rogers has worked to get where he is?



Reader Barry Rubin is upset over what he feels is unjust treatment of wrestling's rulebreakers (such as Pat Patterson above), by Managing Editor Bill Apter.

Or whenever a tough guy has an impressive win. It's never sufficient to say win. Apter has to say Pat Patterson won a "controversial" bout over Bull Ramos. Would Apter say that about his buddy Dusty Rhodes, who is always in Apter's stupid column? Noooooo.

Your magazine would benefit with a different managing editor and different photographer. Take a hike, Apter.

**BARRY RUBIN  
Kew Gardens, NY**

(Continued on page 62)



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## SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from Page 58)



Tommy Rich's victory over Killer Kox for the Georgia heavyweight championship (above) marked Bobby Heenan's final days as a manager in the Georgia area. Reader Susie Drummond of Oxford, Alabama is among the many who believe that Heenan made a big mistake by getting on Rich's bad side.

## SUGAR IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME

Matt Brock was right on target when he assessed Sweet Brown Sugar as having "as much class outside the ring as he does inside." I've seen Sugar standing and signing autographs for hours. He is totally considerate of his fans and goes out of his way to answer questions.

Yes, Sweet Brown Sugar is surely sweet enough for Florida fans.

CAROLYN DILGER  
Orlando, FL

## GOOD RIDDANCE BOBBY

Bobby Heenan has had his way for a long time. He goes around talking about other wrestlers and breaking the rules. He thought he was so smart, but Tommy Rich showed him who was smarter and ran him out of Georgia. That'll teach him to mess with wildfire. Cheating

never got you anywhere, Heenan, but out of Georgia.

SUSIE DRUMMOND  
Oxford, AL

## ASTOUNDING

I can't believe what is going on in this world. First, all the turbulence overseas and now a respected journalist almost gets murdered right here in our own country. It's just getting hard to believe where Man is headed. Gary Morgenstein is a brave man. He was on a dangerous assignment, trying to pinpoint Rick Steamboat's blackmailer. And for his efforts, he narrowly missed being run over. Oh, it's all so scary. Gary is determined to stay on the case, but in the future, if things keep up, there will not be many journalists willing to take that kind of chance. My hat is off to you, Gary.

STEVE LEDNER  
Brooklyn, NY □



# TERRY FUNK

(Continued from Page 40)

a little meaner. Meanness feeds on itself. People tend to get meaner. I won't be surprised if too many people wind up in the hospital during the next few months. Even though Funk won't be here, he'll be the one who really sent them to the hospital."

Manny Fernandez is the man who can claim credit for driving Funk from Florida. It was he who took the Florida state title from Terry. After losing the belt, Funk left the area. The ex-champ claimed the referee made it impossible for him to keep his title. In other words, the wrestling commission told the referee, "Make sure Funk doesn't keep his title."

Naturally, Funk has no proof. Films of the match show that Fernandez wrestled brilliantly. Funk was overwhelmed. As Manny said after the match, "The better man won!" Manny is usually a modest young man, but one can understand his elation.

When Funk announced his departure, everyone breathed a sigh of relief. The worst was over. At least, that's what everyone thought. But the memory of Funk lingers on. The damage he has done, the cruelty he has fostered, will influence Florida wrestling for some time to come.

When asked about the situation, Funk snarls, "I hope they all rot! They couldn't beat me in the ring so they stole my title. Fernandez is a paper champion, a chump, a lackey. Someday, not in Florida, I'll wrestle him again. This time, I'll make sure they have to carry him out."

"As for the rest of the state, I hope a hurricane washes the whole place out to sea."

No hurricane could do as much damage to Florida wrestling as would the return of Terry Funk. □

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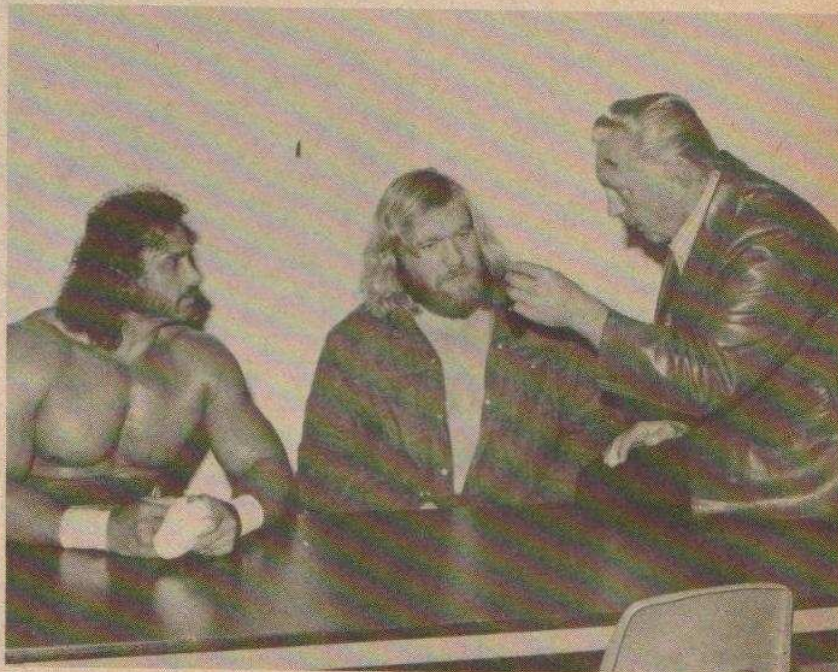
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# ONE ON ONE

(Continued from Page 45)



Manager Buddy Rogers places Jimmy Snuka and John Studd into a Dacronic trance (above). Through this rare form of hypnosis that Rogers learned in India, man's most aggressive behavior is brought to the surface. Studd's eyes are glazed and his forehead bleeds profusely as he battles Blackjack Mulligan (below). Studd kneelifts Mulligan in the chest (opposite right).





JS: I don't need anyone's permission. I can do whatever I want.

BM: Then you'll team with Valentine?

JS: Why, you offering a challenge?

BM: Maybe. But neither of you got the guts to take it.

JS: Oh, look who's talkin' about guts. How many times I whip your face?

BM: None.

JS: Hah, none, you're so punchy you can't count. You're ashamed to admit that you're nothin'. Your end is drawin' nearer and nearer, Mulligan. Soon all your friends will see the light and join up with Buddy Rogers.

BM: Doesn't scare me.

JS: Oh, no? What happens when you try and call Steamboat and he won't answer. Or



when you call up Jay Youngblood and he tells you to jump off a bridge? Everyone is wisin' up and desertin' you, Mulligan. You ain't got the brains or talent to make it on your own.

BM: Least I know when I talk, it's my words comin' out.

JS: What's that mean?

BM: You know.

JS: Just bug off, Mulligan. I'm tired of talkin' to you. I'm gettin' sick.

BM: Gettin' sick? You been sick a long time, Studd. □

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